

The topics students study in Politics and Society:

Topic 1	Power and decision-making in school
Topic 2	Power and decision-making at national and European level
Topic 3	Effectively contributing to communities
Topic 4	Rights and responsibilities in communication with others
Topic 5	Human rights and responsibilities in Ireland
Topic 6	Human rights and responsibilities in Europe and the wider world
Topic 7	Globalisation and identity
Topic 8	Sustainable development

This information sheet is available to download from:

www.ncca.ie/en/politics



Leaving Certificate Politics and Society

Information for students



Politics and Society

A new subject has been developed for Leaving Certificate called Politics and Society. This will be an optional Leaving Certificate subject, just like other exam subjects. It will be introduced on a phased basis, starting with a small number of schools from September 2016. Students in these schools will sit the first Leaving Certificate Politics and Society examination in June, 2018.

What will I learn in Politics and Society?

Few subjects are as relevant to our everyday lives as Politics and Society.

Among other things, students will learn about the social systems within which people act locally, nationally and more widely, the concepts underpinning contemporary systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies in shaping the world we live in.

Teachers and students will work with key themes and ideas in the social and political sciences. They will apply these to their schools, to the local environment, as well as exploring how they apply in the wider world. For example, through looking at the changes in their own local community over the last few years, students will have an opportunity to discuss whether or not these changes constitute development, and whether or not they are sustainable.

Will this subject suit me?

Politics and Society is a challenging and rewarding subject that suits any student who is interested in human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development, power and democratic decision-making. If you want to become a more informed and active global citizen then this subject will be of interest to you.

Studying Politics and Society gives students a real insight into people, power and how society works.



How will I learn?

Students will learn about social and political theories and how these theories relate to current issues. There will be lots of classroom discussion, debate and reflection on the different ideas and perspectives. Through this, students will develop valuable analytical and evaluation skills as they debate topical and sometimes controversial issues, study different viewpoints and form their own political opinions.

How will I be assessed?

Politics and Society will be assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level. There will be two assessment components at each level – a written examination which accounts for 80% of the final grade and a citizenship project which accounts for 20%. The citizenship project enables students to research a topic of interest to them and then apply their learning in action.

How does Politics and Society relate to other subjects?

Some of the learning in Politics and Society will be useful if you also study Geography, History, Economics or Religious Education for the Leaving Certificate.

How will it be useful to me later?

You will find Politics and Society useful if you want to study politics or sociology or other courses such as law, anthropology, philosophy, development studies, media studies, and many more.

The skills of critical thinking and active citizenship that you will develop through this subject will be useful to you in any future learning and in your everyday life.

