



Senior Cycle - Agricultural Science

Subject Group: Science

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods and teaches the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the factors that affect the long- term well-being of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources. It is steadily growing in popularity every year with numbers on a par with Chemistry and Physics at National level. It is recognised as a laboratory science subject for almost all 3rd level courses including nursing.

It can be a good study to subject with Biology and/or Geography due to the overlap in course content. Some experience of farming would be desirable.

The Programme covers the following topics:

- Livestock-rearing and principles.
- Crop production.
- Soil types
- Genetics
- Ecology
- Animal and plant science

Careers Possibilities

Careers in this area include: Green keeping, Horticulture, Food Science, Animal Science, Veterinary Nursing and Veterinary Studies, Agricultural Advisers, Sports Turf Management, Environmental Science, Forestry, Farming, Marine Science, Careers in Renewable Energy and Teaching.

Subject Content

The course consists of the study of a variety of aspects of agriculture under the following headings:

- Soils
- The general structure and function of plants
- Farm crops - cereal and roots
- Farm crops - grassland

- Trees and shelter
- Structure and function of the animal body
- The cow, the sheep, horse, and pig
- Farm buildings (for school assessment only)
- Farm-house environment (for school assessment only)

Exam Structure

The examination in Agricultural Science consists of (a) a terminal examination paper and (b) an assessment of the work of the candidate during the course under the headings: identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture; practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layouts; investigations carried out related to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology.