

# 7

## Education

- In 2006, over a quarter of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification.
- At age 19, 62% of females and 45% of males were in full-time education in 2005/2006.
- In 2006 total gross expenditure on education by the State was €7,217.8m.
- In 2006 there were 27,515 primary school teachers in the state, 84% of whom were females.
- In 2005/2006 there were 25,387 full-time equivalent teachers in second level schools.
- 60% of new entrants to HEA institutions and 54% of new entrants of all third level institutions were female in 2005/2006.

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## **Introduction**

The statistics in this chapter have been obtained from the Department of Education and Science. Results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) modules on Educational Attainment are also included. The data includes details of participation in and expenditure on first, second and third level education.

## **Educational Attainment**

In 2005 over a quarter of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification. Excluding 15-24 year olds (the age group most likely to be still in education), just over 28% of the population aged 25-64 had a third level qualification. Over 62% of all persons aged 15-64 attained education levels of higher secondary level or above. Over 15% of persons aged 15-64 had not progressed beyond primary level education.

## **Persons in education**

The number of students in first level education totalled 462,811 in 2005/06. This was a slight increase over 2004/2005 but represented only 80% of the 576,576 figure recorded in 1985/86. The numbers at this level have fallen substantially since then, but have risen in the last six years. In the case of second level students, the participation rate rose strongly from 1965/66 until 1995/96. Since then there has been a 9% drop in student numbers, resulting from a fall in the birth rate from the 1980s until 1996. Over the period 1965-2006, there was an increase of 702% in the third level student population. 1,741 extra places were taken up in 2005/6, as compared with 2004/05.

In 2005/06, participation rates for males and females differed substantially over the age group 15-22. Only a slightly greater proportion of females were in full-time education at age 15. At the age of 19, 62% of females and 45% of males were in full-time education. This can be partially explained by a greater male participation in the labour force for the 15-19 age cohort, 30% versus 23% for females (see table 2.9). The education participation rates came back into balance for ages 23 and 24.

Women formed 60% of new entrants to the HEA institutions (Universities and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) in the year 2005/2006, but formed only 48% of new entrants to the Institutes and Colleges of Technology.

## **Teachers in Education**

The number of teaching posts in first level education has increased from 21,035 in 1997 to 27,515 in 2006. The number of teachers (full-time and full-time equivalents) in secondary, vocational and community schools has increased from 23,996 in 1999/2000 to 25,387 in 2005/2006.

## **Exam Results**

The number of examination candidates in second level schools has declined from 131,530 in 1998 to 111,895 in 2006. The number of students in 2006 taking higher level leaving certificate English was 59.8% compared to 25.4% in Irish and 17.7% in mathematics. The number of students in 2006 achieving an A Grade in higher level English was 10.4%, in higher level Irish was 12.8% and in higher level mathematics was 14.4%.

## Technical Notes

### Tables 7.1 and 7.2

Tables 7.1 and 7.2 give details of the highest level of education attained by people in Ireland and are taken from the QNHS ad hoc module on Educational Attainment last published in May 2006. Data refers to March-May 1999-2005.

### Table 7.4

Up to 2003 the Estimates for the Education Sector were accounted for in the Book of Estimates and the Appropriation Accounts under four separate Votes - (a) Office of the Minister for Education and Science (b) First Level Education (c) Second Level and Further Education and (d) Third level and Further Education.

In 2003, with the approval of the Public Accounts Committee, the former four Education Votes were amalgamated into one single Vote - Education and Science. The amalgamated Vote followed the former Vote and Subhead structures as closely as possible.

The amalgamation of the votes aligned the financial functioning of the Department with the approach taken in the Department's Statement of Strategy.

Administration and other services include school transport, grant in aid fund for general expenses of youth and sport organisations, schools information and communications technological activities, Child Abuse Commission and Residential Institutions Redress.

### Table 7.7

Only teachers paid from funds provided by the Department of Education and Science are included in this table.

Part-time teaching staff includes job-sharers, eligible part-time teachers and other part-time teachers.

The data in respect of Vocational schools relate to day courses only.

### Table 7.9

The information in this table refers to the number of second level pupil taking individual subjects in the Leaving Certificate programme.

Home Economics S & S (New Syllabus) has been introduced. Home Economics (S.S.) and Home Economics (General) have been phased out.

### Table 7.10

The percentages in this table are the proportion of Leaving Certificate examination candidates (excluding Leaving Certificate Applied) who took a particular subject at ordinary level.

### Table 7.11

The percentages in this table are the proportion of Leaving Certificate examination candidates (excluding Leaving Certificate Applied) who took a particular subject at higher level.

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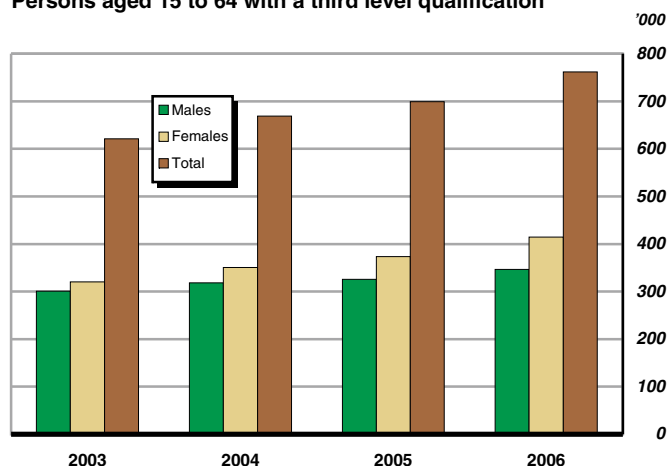
**Table 7.1 Persons aged 15-64 classified by the highest level of education attained**

Thousands

Highest education level attained	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Males</b>							
Primary or below	278.7	282.7	274.7	253.3	246.7	242.4	240.1
Lower secondary	296.1	286.7	291.3	307.0	316.1	310.3	312.6
Higher secondary	301.1	315.5	324.2	335.2	356.1	371.6	381.3
Post leaving cert	146.4	141.7	142.8	133.4	121.1	132.0	138.5
Third level non-degree	76.7	91.8	93.0	104.9	111.5	111.0	118.3
Third level degree or above	148.2	155.1	172.7	195.8	206.7	214.7	228.5
Other	27.4	28.5	34.2	27.3	23.4	36.5	45.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,274.6</b>	<b>1,302.1</b>	<b>1,333.0</b>	<b>1,357.0</b>	<b>1,381.6</b>	<b>1,418.5</b>	<b>1,464.7</b>
<b>Females</b>							
Primary or below	245.8	250.8	241.6	218.3	211.4	203.4	198.4
Lower secondary	268.2	252.7	255.9	267.6	267.8	263.4	261.2
Higher secondary	335.6	348.9	356.1	375.3	384.6	394.9	394.4
Post leaving cert	149.2	142.6	138.9	140.5	132.0	134.3	134.3
Third level non-degree	103.7	119.5	126.4	132.8	142.4	150.6	156.8
Third level degree or above	134.8	148.7	173.8	187.3	208.2	222.6	258.0
Other	25.0	24.5	28.1	23.5	21.7	29.2	31.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,262.3</b>	<b>1,287.7</b>	<b>1,320.8</b>	<b>1,345.3</b>	<b>1,368.1</b>	<b>1,398.3</b>	<b>1,435.0</b>
<b>All persons</b>							
Primary or below	524.5	533.5	516.4	471.6	458.1	445.7	438.5
Lower secondary	564.3	539.4	547.2	574.7	583.9	573.7	573.8
Higher secondary	636.7	664.4	680.2	710.5	740.7	766.4	775.7
Post leaving cert	295.6	284.3	281.7	273.9	253.1	266.3	272.9
Third level non-degree	180.4	211.3	219.4	237.7	253.9	261.5	275.1
Third level degree or above	283.0	303.8	346.5	383.1	414.9	437.3	486.5
Other	52.3	53.1	62.3	50.8	45.1	65.7	77.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,536.8</b>	<b>2,589.8</b>	<b>2,653.8</b>	<b>2,702.3</b>	<b>2,749.7</b>	<b>2,816.7</b>	<b>2,899.6</b>

Source: CSO

**Persons aged 15 to 64 with a third level qualification**

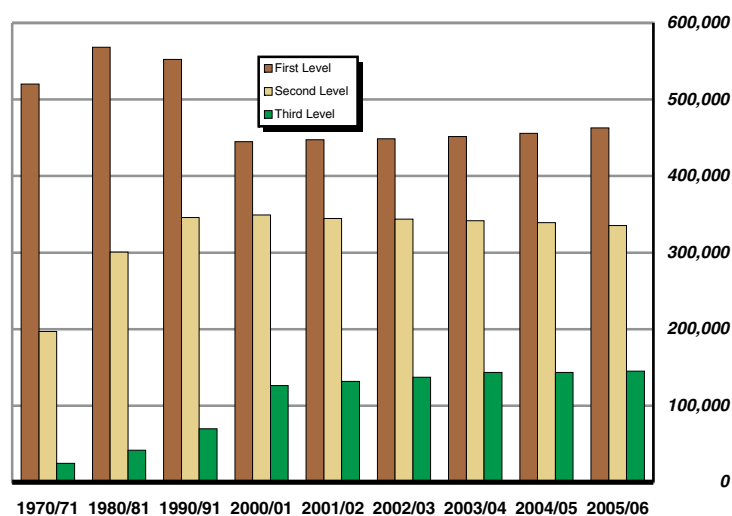


**Table 7.2 Persons in full-time education by level**

School year	Number		
	First level	Second level	Third level
1965/66	504,865	142,983	20,698
1970/71	520,129	197,142	24,496
1975/76	550,078	270,956	33,148
1980/81	568,364	300,601	41,928
1985/86	576,576	338,207	55,088
1990/91	552,528	345,941	69,988
1995/96	485,923	373,665	102,662
2000/01	444,782	349,274	126,300
2001/02	447,446	344,720	131,812
2002/03	448,754	343,596	137,323
2003/04	451,755	341,724	143,271
2004/05	455,572	339,128	143,546
2005/06	462,811	335,134	145,287

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Persons in full-time education by level**



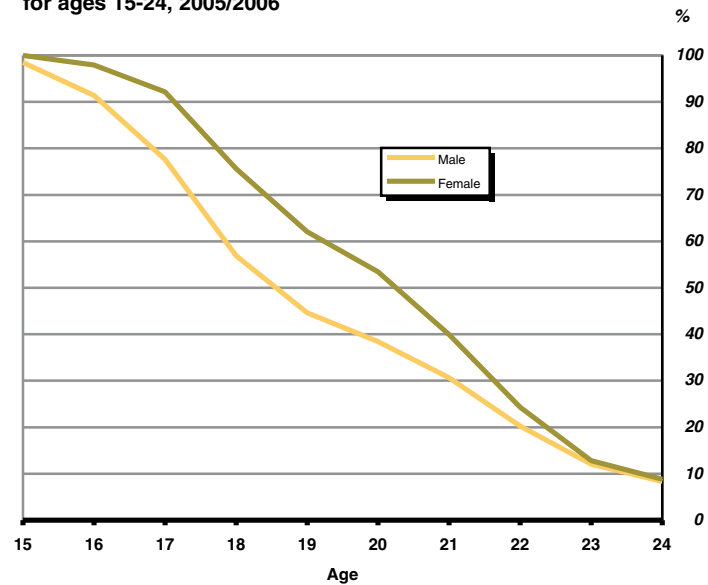
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**Table 7.3 Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2005/06**

Age	In full-time education			As % of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15	29,847	28,739	<b>58,586</b>	98.5	100.0
16	26,944	27,481	<b>54,425</b>	91.4	97.9
17	23,060	25,839	<b>48,899</b>	77.6	92.2
18	17,209	22,076	<b>39,285</b>	56.9	75.6
19	13,760	18,599	<b>32,359</b>	44.6	62.0
20	12,209	16,557	<b>28,766</b>	38.4	53.5
21	10,290	12,880	<b>23,170</b>	30.6	39.9
22	6,896	8,178	<b>15,074</b>	20.3	24.3
23	4,473	4,704	<b>9,177</b>	12.0	12.8
24	3,097	3,288	<b>6,385</b>	8.3	8.8

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Full-time education participation rate by sex for ages 15-24, 2005/2006**





**Table 7.4 Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2005**

€m

Sector	Current	Capital	Total
Administration and Other Services	558,656	9,167	567,823
First Level Education Grants and Services	2,216,983	266,680	2,483,663
Second Level & Further Education Grants and Services	2,338,885	234,582	2,573,467
Third Level & Further Education Grants and Services	1,502,033	90,828	1,592,861
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>6,616,557</b>	<b>601,257</b>	<b>7,217,814</b>
Appropriations In Aid	283,143	–	283,143
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>6,333,414</b>	<b>601,257</b>	<b>6,934,671</b>

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Table 7.5 Pupils in first level schools classified by standard**

Number

Standard	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Infants standard	103,133	103,832	107,500	111,355	113,150	113,810	115,418
First standard	51,659	50,818	51,138	52,166	54,770	56,158	57,393
Second standard	53,851	51,766	50,927	51,243	52,211	54,899	56,435
Third standard	54,505	54,033	51,960	51,226	51,567	52,461	55,373
Fourth standard	53,828	54,606	54,079	52,068	51,323	51,858	52,891
Fifth standard	54,048	54,063	54,916	54,476	52,405	51,733	52,416
Sixth standard	56,647	53,595	53,760	54,616	54,225	52,396	51,832
Other standard	668	631	427	379	320	215	208
Special schools	7,228	7,124	6,982	6,807	6,718	6,621	6,627
Pupils with special needs in ordinary first level schools	8,743	9,092	9,376	9,384	9,340	9,357	9,296
Private Primary Schools	6,842	5,222	6,381	5,034	5,726	6,274	4,922
<b>Total pupils</b>	<b>451,152</b>	<b>444,782</b>	<b>447,446</b>	<b>448,754</b>	<b>451,755</b>	<b>455,782</b>	<b>462,811</b>

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Table 7.6 Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June**

Number

Sex	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	4,568	4,522	4,498	4,370	4,503	4,536	4,490	4,578	4,493	4,485
Female	16,467	16,578	17,002	17,480	18,347	19,399	20,210	21,461	21,789	23,030
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,035</b>	<b>21,100</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>21,850</b>	<b>22,850</b>	<b>23,935</b>	<b>24,700</b>	<b>26,039</b>	<b>26,282</b>	<b>27,515</b>

Source: Department of Education and Science

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**Table 7.7 Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools**

Number

Category	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
<b>Secondary</b>							
Full-time	12,418	12,476	12,424	12,447	11,835	11,553	11,477
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,175	1,361	1,582	1,680	1,326	1,653	1,844
<b>Vocational</b>							
Full-time	5,625	5,788	5,685	5,933	5,977	5,994	6,482
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,156	1,381	1,607	1,417	1,581	1,682	1,503
<b>Community and Comprehensive</b>							
Full-time	3,058	3,171	3,410	3,682	3,602	3,487	3,452
Full-time equivalent of part-time	534	434	479	533	490	621	629
<b>Total</b>							
Full-time	<b>21,101</b>	<b>21,435</b>	<b>21,519</b>	<b>22,062</b>	<b>21,414</b>	<b>21,034</b>	<b>21,411</b>
Full-time equivalent of part-time	<b>2,865</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>3,668</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>3,956</b>	<b>3,976</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>							
Full-time & full-time equivalent	<b>23,966</b>	<b>24,611</b>	<b>25,187</b>	<b>25,692</b>	<b>24,811</b>	<b>24,990</b>	<b>25,387</b>

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Table 7.8 Second level state examination candidates**

Number

Examination	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>65,608</b>	<b>62,659</b>	<b>61,470</b>	<b>60,124</b>	<b>60,152</b>	<b>59,340</b>	<b>56,864</b>	<b>56,640</b>	<b>57,784</b>
Male	33,137	31,773	31,302	30,308	30,150	29,855	28,495	28,627	29,273
Female	32,471	30,886	30,168	29,816	30,002	29,485	28,369	28,013	28,511
<b>Leaving Certificate</b>	<b>65,922</b>	<b>64,936</b>	<b>63,419</b>	<b>59,537</b>	<b>58,400</b>	<b>59,536</b>	<b>58,742</b>	<b>57,391</b>	<b>54,111</b>
Male	31,333	30,811	30,138	28,176	27,716	28,532	28,059	27,189	25,832
Female	34,589	34,125	33,281	31,361	30,684	31,004	30,683	30,202	28,279
<b>ALL EXAMINATION CANDIDATES</b>	<b>131,530</b>	<b>127,595</b>	<b>124,889</b>	<b>119,661</b>	<b>118,552</b>	<b>118,876</b>	<b>115,606</b>	<b>114,031</b>	<b>111,895</b>
Male	64,470	62,584	61,440	58,484	57,866	58,387	56,554	55,816	55,105
Female	67,060	65,011	63,449	61,177	60,686	60,489	59,052	58,215	56,790

Source: Department of Education and Science

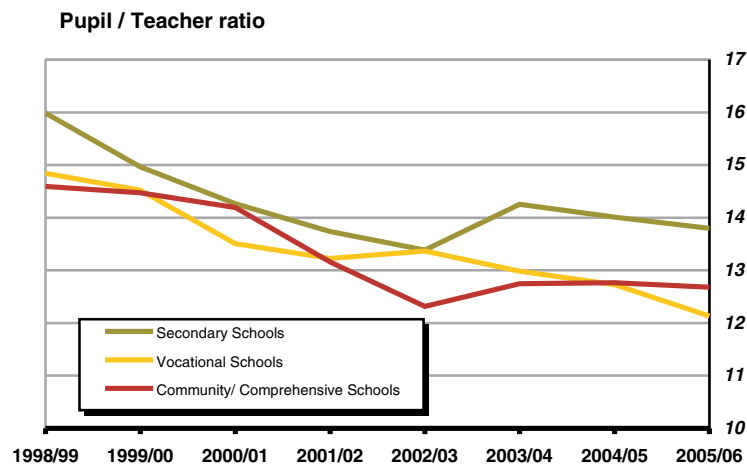


Table 7.9 Pupils in all second level schools by Leaving Certificate subject, 2006

Number

Subject	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
English	47,836	51,039	<b>98,875</b>	99.7	99.7
Mathematics	47,848	51,007	<b>98,855</b>	99.7	99.6
Irish	44,452	47,906	<b>92,358</b>	92.7	93.6
Religious Education	39,315	43,056	<b>82,371</b>	81.9	84.1
French	26,046	34,238	<b>60,284</b>	54.3	66.9
Physical Education	27,012	32,170	<b>59,182</b>	56.3	62.8
Biology	17,072	34,326	<b>51,398</b>	35.6	67.0
Geography	26,292	22,764	<b>49,056</b>	54.8	44.5
Business Studies	16,948	20,635	<b>37,583</b>	35.3	40.3
Computer Studies	11,657	14,534	<b>26,191</b>	24.3	28.4
Home Economics (New syllabus)	2,927	22,838	<b>25,765</b>	6.1	44.6
History	12,897	10,627	<b>23,524</b>	26.9	20.8
Construction Studies	17,559	1,371	<b>18,930</b>	36.6	2.7
German	7,422	8,845	<b>16,267</b>	15.5	17.3
Physics	11,094	3,836	<b>14,930</b>	23.1	7.5
Accounting	6,476	7,677	<b>14,153</b>	13.5	15.0
Chemistry	6,273	7,746	<b>14,019</b>	13.1	15.1
Technical Drawing	10,537	956	<b>11,493</b>	22.0	1.9
Art (with Design option)	4,360	6,368	<b>10,728</b>	9.1	12.4
Engineering	10,079	614	<b>10,693</b>	21.0	1.2
Art (with Craftwork option)	3,494	6,897	<b>10,391</b>	7.3	13.5
Music	2,308	6,633	<b>8,941</b>	4.8	13.0
Economics	5,120	3,085	<b>8,205</b>	10.7	6.0
Agricultural Science	5,127	1,976	<b>7,103</b>	10.7	3.9
Spanish	2,000	3,744	<b>5,744</b>	4.2	7.3
Choir	188	3,528	<b>3,716</b>	0.4	6.9
Applied Maths	1,525	544	<b>2,069</b>	3.2	1.1
Health Education	391	1,318	<b>1,709</b>	0.8	2.6
Physics and Chemistry	782	443	<b>1,225</b>	1.6	0.9
Classical Studies	651	558	<b>1,209</b>	1.4	1.1
Speech and Drama	14	1,156	<b>1,170</b>	0.0	2.3
Italian	163	293	<b>456</b>	0.3	0.6
Typewriting	138	246	<b>384</b>	0.3	0.5
Latin	180	37	<b>217</b>	0.4	0.1
Keyboarding	88	72	<b>160</b>	0.2	0.1
Agricultural Economics	47	30	<b>77</b>	0.1	0.1
Orchestra	0	73	<b>73</b>	0.0	0.1
Greek	14	0	<b>14</b>	0.0	0.0
Economic History	1	0	<b>1</b>	0.0	0.0
Home Economics (S & S)	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Home Economics (General)	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
<b>Leaving Certificate Programme</b>	<b>47,976</b>	<b>51,202</b>	<b>99,178</b>		

Source: Department of Education and Science

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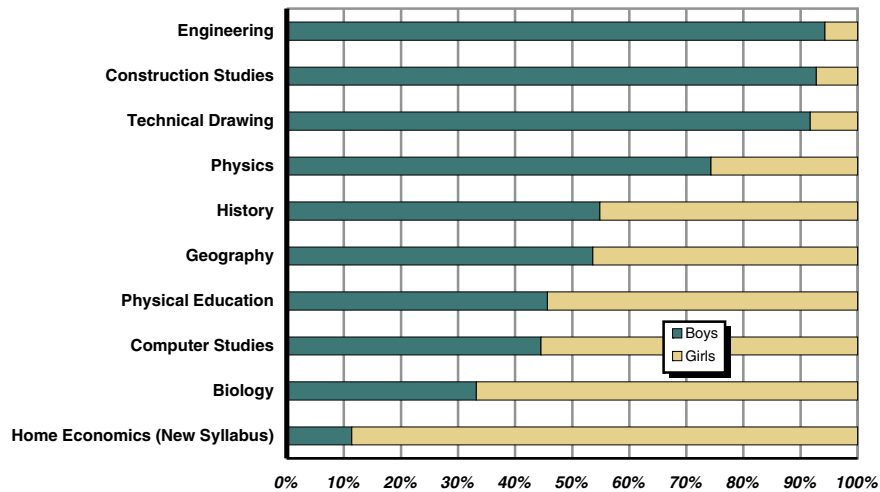
**Table 7.10 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level**

%

Subject	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Mathematics	66	70	70	70	71	70	70	68	68	69
Irish	52	53	53	52	53	52	52	52	52	52
English	43	43	42	43	39	39	37	37	35	35
French	29	30	30	32	31	31	31	29	30	28
Biology	18	18	18	17	17	15	16	15	15	15
Business Studies	15	15	11	13	14	13	13	13	13	13
Geography	13	13	11	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Mathematics (Alt/Ord)	10	9	9	10	9	10	10	11	10	10
Irish (Foundation)	9	9	9	9	9	10	9	9	9	9
Home Economics (S & S)	11	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	8
History	9	9	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7
German	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Technical Drawing	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Art	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Physics	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4
Construction Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Accounting	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Engineering	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Economics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chemistry	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Agricultural Science	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Spanish	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Music	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Source: Department of Education and Science

**All Leaving Certificate students taking selected subjects, 2006**



**Table 7.11 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level**

%

Subject	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
English	48	53	53	53	55	57	58	59	60	60
Geography	30	33	36	37	38	38	39	39	39	35
Biology	28	30	28	27	26	25	25	29	32	33
French	26	27	29	28	28	27	27	27	27	26
Irish	25	28	27	28	28	27	27	27	27	25
Business Studies	20	23	28	29	29	29	28	27	25	25
Mathematics	16	17	17	18	18	17	17	17	18	18
Home Economics (S & S)	24	27	27	25	25	24	23	19	18	16
Art	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	13	14	15
History	13	14	13	13	12	12	13	12	12	14
Construction Studies	9	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13
Chemistry	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	11	11	11
Physics	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	10
Accounting	10	10	10	9	9	8	8	9	9	10
German	11	11	11	11	10	9	9	9	9	9
Music	0	0	4	5	5	6	6	7	8	8
Economics	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Engineering	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7
Technical Drawing	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Agricultural Science	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
Applied Mathematics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Spanish	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3
Classical Studies	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Table 7.12 Leaving Certificate ordinary level grades for most popular subjects, 2006**

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
History	19	30	27	20	4
Accounting	19	24	21	18	17
Physics	14	32	27	18	9
Technical Drawing	13	28	28	22	9
Mathematics	11	27	27	23	11
Economics	11	33	29	21	6
Business Studies	10	30	34	20	5
English	8	33	39	18	2
Mathematics (Alt/Ord)	8	31	35	20	7
Chemistry	7	25	28	25	15
Irish (Foundation)	7	38	42	13	1
Geography	4	26	42	23	5
Irish	4	30	37	22	6
Biology	4	27	34	22	13
Engineering	3	25	39	25	8
German	3	33	38	19	6
Art	1	21	44	27	6
Construction Studies	1	19	41	30	9
French	1	20	41	30	8
Home Economics (S & S)	1	19	43	28	9

Source: Department of Education and Science

## Education

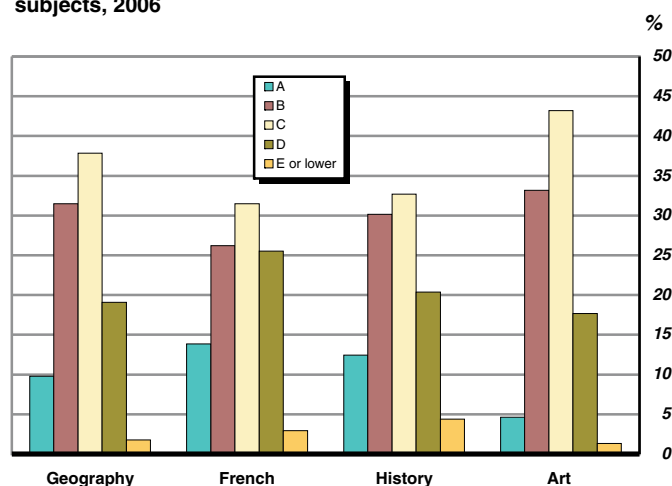
**Table 7.13 Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2006**

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
Applied Mathematics	27	32	20	16	5
Chemistry	22	29	25	17	7
Accounting	21	32	23	16	9
Physics	20	27	24	22	7
Spanish	19	26	32	21	1
Biology	17	27	28	21	7
Music	15	55	26	4	0
Technical Drawing	15	30	29	22	4
Mathematics	14	35	33	14	3
French	14	26	31	26	3
German	14	30	36	19	2
Economics	13	32	30	20	5
Physics and Chemistry	13	23	28	22	14
Agricultural Science	13	23	31	26	7
Irish	13	36	36	14	1
History	12	30	33	20	4
Business Studies	12	28	28	24	8
English	10	28	39	22	1
Engineering	10	32	33	21	4
Geography	10	31	38	19	2
Classical Studies	8	25	33	23	11
Home Economics (S & S)	7	29	37	23	4
Construction Studies	6	37	40	15	2
Art	5	33	43	18	1

Source: Department of Education and Science

**Grade distribution of selected Leaving Certificate higher level subjects, 2006**



**Table 7.14 First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2005/06**

*Number*

<b>Type of institution</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
HEA Institutions	7,157	10,956	18,113
IOT/Technological Sector	8,753	7,958	16,711
Other	1,488	1,590	3,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,398</b>	<b>20,504</b>	<b>37,902</b>

*Source: Department of Education and Science*

