

# The facts of the matter

## Junior Certificate Subject Fact Sheets

Are you a first year tutor or guidance counsellor who needs to give basic and concise information to your students about the different subjects available in junior cycle? Or maybe as a primary teacher you are interested in how some of the areas of the Primary School Curriculum that you teach develop at post-primary level?



Well, help is at hand. The NCCA has put together a set of fact sheets which give information about each junior cycle subject. These fact sheets will provide you with some of the answers to both your questions and your students' questions. They may also be a very handy resource for you to 'pull out of the drawer' before information evenings and school open days!

The junior cycle subject fact sheets have been designed with sixth class pupils and first year students in mind, but they will also be useful for parents or guardians.

The need for information for both parents and students became apparent from the ESRI report, *Moving On* (NCCA summary report available on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)), which reported on the experiences of first year students

following their transition from sixth class to post-primary school.

For sixth class pupils, moving to post-primary school can be a challenging, exciting and daunting experience. According to parents' comments documented in the report, a factor contributing to the students' nervousness was not knowing what to expect in the new school, including the introduction of new and unfamiliar subjects.

The report indicated that when it came to decisions on subject choice, pupils relied on their friends and families for advice. The junior cycle subject fact sheets will help schools allay their students' anxieties about the different subjects they may be taking and help the students and parents make more informed decisions in relation to their choices. By providing these fact sheets, each school too is helping to ease the transition for these students between primary and post-primary.

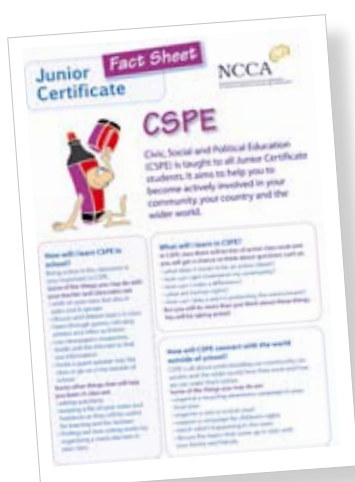
The fact sheets provide clear, concise and 'student friendly' information on the different subjects. They contain information on what the students might learn in each subject as well as

- how they may learn each subject
- how the subject will be examined at Junior Certificate
- how the student might learn more about the subject outside of school
- how the student can continue the subject at senior cycle.

The fact sheets also provide

- a selection of useful websites which provide further information on each subject
- information about how the subject develops from primary to post primary

The junior cycle subject fact sheets will be available to download from the NCCA website ([www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)). Each sheet comes in a neat and user-friendly format so that they can be photocopied onto two sides of an A4 page. Let us know what you think of them by emailing: [newsletter@ncca.ie](mailto:newsletter@ncca.ie).



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