



# Subject Overviews

## Senior Phase Options 2026

Below are brief descriptions of the subjects available in the Senior Phase, including things you will study, skills developed and *potential* careers linked to these courses.

**Note- it is worth speaking with teachers/ departments for more specific information on courses as these are prone to change.**



## 1. Administration

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Administration, you will learn how organisations run smoothly by managing information, systems, and processes. You will explore tasks such as record-keeping, communication, organising meetings, and using digital tools effectively. The course develops practical and organisational skills that are essential in many workplaces.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Organising tasks and managing information efficiently
- Using digital tools for office and administrative work
- Communicating clearly and working well in a team

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Administrative Assistant - supporting daily operations in offices or businesses
- Office Manager - overseeing office systems and staff coordination
- Personal Assistant - managing schedules, communications, and tasks for individuals

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## 2. Art & Design

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Art & Design, you will develop creativity and express your ideas through practical work and design projects. You will experiment with materials, techniques, and digital tools, while learning how to communicate visually. The course encourages problem-solving, critical thinking, and the ability to analyse and evaluate your own work and that of others.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Creativity and visual communication
- Practical skills with traditional and digital materials
- Analysis and evaluation of artwork

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Graphic Designer - creating visuals for websites, advertising, or branding
- Illustrator - producing artwork for books, magazines, or media
- Animator / Digital Artist - designing moving images for film, TV, or games

### **3. Biology**

#### **Course Overview (SQA)**

In Biology, we explore living organisms and their interactions with the environment. You will study cells, genetics, evolution, human biology, and ecosystems. You will also carry out experiments to understand scientific methods and develop practical laboratory skills. This course helps you understand the natural world and apply scientific thinking to real-life problems.

#### **Some Skills We Develop**

- Investigating and conducting experiments
- Analysing data and solving problems
- Communicating scientific ideas clearly

#### **Some Jobs You Could Do**

- Biologist / Research Scientist - conducting research in labs or in the field
- Healthcare Professional (Doctor, Nurse, Biomedical Scientist) - applying biological knowledge to help people
- Environmental Consultant - advising on conservation and sustainability projects

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### **4. Business**

#### **Course Overview (SQA)**

In Business, you will learn how businesses operate and make decisions in different environments. You will explore topics such as marketing, finance, customer relations, and the global economy. The course develops understanding of business operations and helps you think strategically when solving business problems.

#### **Some Skills We Develop**

- Understanding business structures and operations
- Analysing information and making decisions
- Communicating ideas effectively

#### **Some Jobs You Could Do**

- Business Analyst - reviewing and improving business performance
- Marketing Assistant - helping to promote products and services
- Entrepreneur - starting and managing your own business

## 5. Business Management

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Business Management, you will focus on leadership, planning, and decision-making within organisations. You will study how businesses set objectives, manage resources, and solve problems. The course develops practical skills for managing projects and leading teams successfully.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Strategic thinking and planning
- Leadership and team management
- Financial and resource management

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Manager - overseeing teams, projects, or departments
- Project Coordinator - planning and executing business projects
- HR Assistant - supporting people management in organisations

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## 6. Business and IT

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Business and IT, you will learn how technology can support business operations. You will explore using digital tools to organise information, analyse data, and solve problems. The course combines business understanding with IT skills that are valuable in many modern workplaces.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Using IT to manage and analyse information
- Problem-solving in business contexts
- Communicating effectively with colleagues and clients

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- IT Support Assistant - helping businesses use technology efficiently
- Data Analyst - collecting and analysing business information
- Office Administrator - managing digital records and processes

## 7. Chemistry

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Chemistry, we explore the substances that make up the world and how they react with each other. You will study chemical reactions, the periodic table, acids and bases, and laboratory techniques. The course helps you develop practical skills, scientific thinking, and an understanding of how chemistry impacts daily life and industries.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Conducting experiments and practical investigations
- Analysing data and problem-solving
- Communicating scientific ideas clearly

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Chemist - conducting research and experiments in labs or industry
- Laboratory Technician - supporting scientific investigations
- Pharmacist - preparing and advising on medications

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## 8. Computer Games Development (Level 5)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Computer Games Development, you will learn how to design and create games using programming, graphics, and sound. You will explore coding, testing, and game design, developing both creative and technical skills to produce interactive games.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Programming and problem-solving
- Game design and creative thinking
- Testing and refining software projects

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Game Developer - designing and coding video games
- Software Tester - checking games and applications for issues
- 3D Artist - designing graphics and animations for games

## 9. Computing Science

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Computing Science, you will learn how computers work and how to write programs and applications. You will study algorithms, programming languages, data handling, and problem-solving. This course helps you think logically and develop technology skills for a wide range of careers.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Programming and software development
- Logical thinking and problem-solving
- Data analysis and management

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Software Developer - creating programs and applications
- IT Support Technician - maintaining computer systems
- Data Analyst - analysing information for businesses or research

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## 10. Criminology (Level 5)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Criminology, you will study crime, its causes, and the responses of society. You will explore criminal behaviour, the justice system, and social issues related to crime. The course develops analytical skills and understanding of law and society.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Analysing social and legal issues
- Research and critical thinking
- Problem-solving and evaluating information

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Police Officer - investigating and preventing crime
- Probation Officer - supporting offenders in the community
- Criminal Analyst - researching crime trends and patterns

## 11. Dance

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Dance, you will develop physical skills, creativity, and expression through movement. You will learn techniques for performance, explore choreography, and analyse different dance styles. The course helps you work confidently in groups, build teamwork skills, and express ideas through physical movement.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Physical coordination and performance techniques
- Creativity and choreography
- Teamwork and communication

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Professional Dancer - performing in theatre, TV, or film
- Choreographer - creating dance routines for performances
- Dance Teacher - instructing students in schools or studios

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## 12. Design & Manufacture

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Design & Manufacture, you will learn how to design, plan, and create products using materials like wood, metal, and plastics. You will explore creative solutions, develop practical skills, and use technology to produce and test designs. The course encourages problem-solving and innovation, giving insight into real-world engineering and design processes.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Product design and practical manufacturing
- Problem-solving and creative thinking
- Planning and project management

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Product Designer - designing everyday products or specialised items
- Manufacturing Technician - producing and testing products in industry
- CAD Technician - creating digital design models

## 13. Drama

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Drama, you will explore acting, theatre production, and storytelling. You will develop performances, work with scripts, and analyse plays to understand how drama communicates ideas. The course helps you build confidence, creativity, and teamwork while learning how to present ideas to an audience.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Acting and performance techniques
- Creativity and self-expression
- Teamwork and communication

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Actor - performing in theatre, TV, or film
- Theatre Director - leading productions and guiding performers
- Drama Teacher - teaching drama in schools or community projects

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## 14. Economics

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Economics, you will explore how people, businesses, and governments make decisions about resources. You will study topics such as markets, supply and demand, economic policies, and global trade. The course helps you understand financial systems and develop skills to analyse economic problems critically.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Analysing data and problem-solving
- Understanding financial systems and markets
- Communication and decision-making

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Economist - researching and analysing economic trends
- Financial Analyst - advising on investments and budgets
- Policy Advisor - supporting government or business decisions

## 15. Employability (Level 5)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Employability, you will focus on developing the skills needed to succeed in work or further learning. You will explore job applications, interviews, workplace expectations, and gain experience through practical activities. The course helps you build confidence, organisation, and a clear understanding of career pathways.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Communication and teamwork
- Job application and interview skills
- Time management and organisation

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Customer Service Assistant - helping clients or customers
- Retail Assistant - working in shops or stores
- Administration Support - supporting office or workplace operations

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## 16. Engineering Science N4

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Engineering Science N4, you will explore the principles of engineering, mechanics, and materials. You will develop practical skills through experiments and projects, learning how to apply theory to real-world problems. The course encourages problem-solving and critical thinking in technical contexts.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Understanding engineering principles
- Practical problem-solving and experimentation
- Technical drawing and measurements

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Engineering Technician - assisting engineers in projects
- Mechanical Technician - working with machinery and tools
- Apprentice Engineer - gaining practical experience in engineering

## 17. Engineering Science N5

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Engineering Science N5, you build on N4 skills to study engineering concepts in greater depth. You will investigate forces, materials, electronics, and engineering processes through practical tasks and projects. The course develops analytical thinking, technical skills, and understanding of engineering applications in real life.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Analytical and technical problem-solving
- Practical engineering and lab skills
- Planning and project management

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Mechanical Engineer - designing and improving machinery
- Electrical Engineer - working with electrical systems
- Engineering Designer - creating technical drawings for projects

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## 18. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In ESOL, you will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English. You will focus on communicating effectively in everyday situations and learning strategies to understand texts and express ideas. The course helps build confidence and independence in using English in school, work, and social settings.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English
- Communication and comprehension
- Cultural awareness and adaptability

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Translator / Interpreter - supporting communication across languages
- ESL Teacher - teaching English to non-native speakers
- International Support Officer - assisting people in global workplaces

## 19. French

### Course Overview (SQA)

In French, you will develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. You will explore French culture, society, and communication in everyday and work contexts. The course helps you become confident in using another language and prepares you for international experiences and careers.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Speaking and listening in French
- Reading and writing for effective communication
- Cultural understanding and language application

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Translator / Interpreter - supporting communication in French
- International Business Assistant - working with French-speaking clients
- Language Teacher - teaching French in schools or language centres

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## 20. Geography

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Geography, you will explore the Earth, its environments, and human interactions with the planet. You will study ecosystems, climate, population, and global issues while developing skills to analyse maps, data, and case studies. The course encourages awareness of the environment and prepares you to make informed decisions about the world.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Collecting and analysing data
- Map reading and spatial awareness
- Understanding environmental and social issues

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Environmental Consultant - advising on sustainability and land use
- Urban Planner - planning and developing communities
- Geographer / Researcher - studying environments and human impact

## 21. German

### Course Overview (SQA)

In German, you will develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the German language. You will learn how to communicate in everyday situations and explore aspects of German culture and society. The course helps build confidence in using another language and prepares you for travel, work, or further study.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Communicating clearly in another language
- Reading and understanding written texts
- Cultural awareness and confidence

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Translator / Interpreter - supporting communication in German
- International Business Assistant - working with German-speaking clients
- Language Teacher - teaching German in schools or colleges

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## 22. Graphic Communication

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Graphic Communication, you will learn how to communicate ideas visually using drawing and digital design tools. You will produce technical drawings, layouts, and design solutions that clearly share information. The course develops creativity, accuracy, and presentation skills that are valued in design and engineering careers.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Visual communication and technical drawing
- Creativity and design thinking
- Planning and presentation skills

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Graphic Designer - creating visuals for media and advertising
- CAD Technician - producing technical drawings and models
- Architectural Technician - supporting building and design projects

## 23. Health & Food Technology

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Health & Food Technology, you will learn about nutrition, health, and food preparation. You will explore how food choices affect wellbeing and develop practical cooking skills through planning and preparing meals. The course helps you understand healthy lifestyles and the science behind food and nutrition.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Cooking and food preparation
- Understanding nutrition and health
- Planning and organisation

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Dietitian / Nutritionist - advising people on healthy eating
- Food Technologist - developing and testing food products
- Chef - preparing meals in professional kitchens

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## 24. Health Sector

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Health Sector, you will explore how the human body works and how health and care services support people. You will learn about patient care, health promotion, and the responsibilities of working in health settings. The course is ideal for pupils interested in caring roles or medical careers.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Understanding health and care practices
- Communication and teamwork
- Practical skills for care environments

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Healthcare Assistant - supporting patients in care settings
- Nurse - providing medical care and support
- Midwife - supporting mothers and babies

## 25. History

### Course Overview (SQA)

In History, you will study key events and issues from the past to understand how they have shaped the modern world. You will explore topics such as slavery, World War One, and the Civil Rights movement in the USA, using historical sources to investigate causes, impacts, and consequences. The course helps you develop critical thinking skills and understand how past events influence society today.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Analysing historical sources and evidence
- Researching and explaining past events
- Communicating arguments clearly in writing

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Teacher - teaching history in schools
- Archivist - managing historical records and documents
- Museum or Heritage Officer - working with historical collections

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## 26. Hospitality: Practical Cookery

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Hospitality: Practical Cookery, you will develop practical cooking skills and learn about working in professional kitchens. You will plan, prepare, and present a range of dishes while following food hygiene and safety rules. The course helps you understand the hospitality industry and develop skills for employment.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Cooking and food preparation
- Organisation and time management
- Safe working practices

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Chef - working in restaurants or hotels
- Catering Assistant - supporting food service operations
- Food Service Supervisor - overseeing kitchen or service teams

## 27. Modern Studies

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Modern Studies, you will explore political and social issues in Scotland and the United States of America, focusing on how governments and justice systems operate. You will study topics such as Scottish democracy, crime and law in Scotland, and key aspects of the US political system, including how laws are made and how power is shared. The course helps you understand how decisions are made in different countries and how these decisions affect people's lives.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Researching and analysing political and social issues in Scotland and the USA
- Evaluating evidence and comparing different systems and viewpoints
- Communicating ideas clearly through discussion, debate and written work

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Police Officer or Criminal Justice Worker - working within law and justice systems
- Lawyer / Legal Assistant - supporting legal cases and understanding legal processes
- Journalist or Policy Researcher - reporting on political and social issues

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## 28. Modern Languages: Life & Work

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Modern Languages: Life & Work, you will learn practical language skills for everyday life and the workplace. You will focus on communication, understanding instructions, and interacting confidently in another language. The course prepares you for real-life situations such as travel, employment, or further learning.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Practical communication in another language
- Listening and understanding information
- Cultural awareness and confidence

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- International Customer Service Assistant - supporting customers abroad
- Travel Representative - working in tourism and travel
- Business Support Assistant - working with international clients

## 29. Music

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Music, you will develop skills in performing, composing, and listening to music. You will explore a range of musical styles and learn how music is created and performed. The course encourages creativity, confidence, and teamwork through practical performance and analysis.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Performing and musical technique
- Creativity and composition
- Listening and analytical skills

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Musician - performing professionally
- Music Teacher - teaching music in schools or privately
- Composer - creating music for media or performance

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## 30. Music Technology

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Music Technology, you will learn how to record, produce, and edit music using digital equipment and software. You will explore sound production, mixing, and creative use of technology. The course develops both technical and creative skills used in the music and media industries.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Recording and editing audio
- Creative use of digital technology
- Technical problem-solving

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Sound Engineer - recording and mixing music or audio
- Music Producer - creating and producing tracks
- Audio Technician - supporting live events and studios

## 31. Physical Education (PE)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Physical Education, you will develop physical skills, fitness, and an understanding of how the body works during exercise. You will take part in a range of physical activities and reflect on performance to improve technique and decision-making. The course encourages teamwork, leadership, and healthy lifestyle choices.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Physical fitness and movement skills
- Teamwork and leadership
- Planning and evaluating performance

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- PE Teacher - teaching physical education in schools
- Sports Coach - training and supporting athletes
- Fitness Instructor - leading exercise and wellbeing programmes

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## 32. Physics

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Physics, you will explore how the universe works, from forces and energy to waves, electricity, and space. You will carry out experiments and investigations to understand physical laws and apply mathematical skills. The course develops problem-solving skills and helps you understand how physics is used in technology and engineering.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Investigating and analysing scientific problems
- Applying maths to real-world situations
- Logical thinking and reasoning

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Physicist - researching physical phenomena
- Engineer - applying physics to design and technology
- Renewable Energy Technician - working with sustainable energy systems

## 33. Practical Cookery

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Practical Cookery, you will learn how to prepare, cook, and present a range of dishes. You will develop safe working practices and understand how to plan meals effectively. The course builds confidence in the kitchen and introduces skills useful for everyday life and employment.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Cooking and food preparation
- Organisation and time management
- Safe and hygienic working practices

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Chef - preparing food in restaurants or hotels
- Catering Assistant - supporting food service teams
- Food Preparation Worker - working in food production

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## 34. Practical Electronics

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Practical Electronics, you will learn how electronic systems work and how to build and test circuits. You will develop hands-on skills using components and tools to solve technical problems. The course gives insight into how electronics are used in everyday technology.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Building and testing electronic circuits
- Technical problem-solving
- Understanding electronic systems

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Electronics Technician - building and repairing equipment
- Electrical Engineer - designing electronic systems
- Maintenance Technician - fixing and maintaining technology

## 35. Practical Woodwork

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Practical Woodworking, you will learn how to safely use tools and equipment to create wooden products. You will develop skills in measuring, cutting, and assembling materials. The course encourages accuracy, craftsmanship, and pride in practical work.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Safe use of tools and machinery
- Measuring and precision
- Planning and practical problem-solving

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Joiner - creating and fitting wooden structures
- Carpenter - working on construction projects
- Furniture Maker - designing and building wooden furniture

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## 36. RMPS (Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In RMPS, you will explore religious beliefs, moral issues, and philosophical questions. You will learn to consider different viewpoints, discuss ethical issues, and reflect on values and beliefs. The course encourages respectful discussion and critical thinking about important life questions.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Critical thinking and reflection
- Discussing and evaluating viewpoints
- Communication and reasoning

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Social Worker - supporting individuals and communities
- Youth Worker - working with young people
- Teacher - teaching social or ethical subjects

## 37. Science

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Science, you will explore key ideas from biology, chemistry, and physics. You will carry out experiments and investigations to develop scientific understanding and practical skills. The course builds curiosity and provides a strong foundation for further science subjects.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Practical investigation skills
- Analysing data and results
- Scientific thinking and problem-solving

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Laboratory Assistant - supporting scientific work
- Science Technician - preparing equipment and experiments
- Environmental Worker - supporting conservation projects

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## 38. Spanish

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Spanish, you will develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. You will learn to communicate in everyday situations and explore Spanish culture and traditions. The course helps build confidence and prepares you for travel, work, or further study.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Communicating in another language
- Reading and understanding texts
- Cultural awareness

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Translator / Interpreter - supporting communication in Spanish
- International Business Assistant - working with Spanish-speaking clients
- Travel or Tourism Worker - working abroad or with visitors

## 39. Sports Leaders (Level 5)

### Course Overview (SQA)

In Sports Leaders, you will learn how to plan, organise, and lead physical activities. You will develop leadership skills by working with others and delivering sessions safely and effectively. The course builds confidence and prepares you for roles in sport, fitness, and community settings.

### Some Skills We Develop

- Leadership and communication
- Planning and organising activities
- Teamwork and responsibility

### Some Jobs You Could Do

- Sports Coach - leading training sessions
- Activity Leader - organising sports or fitness activities
- Community Sports Worker - promoting participation in sport

## OPTIONS PATHWAYS

