



This is a summary advice note for school management and teachers of LCA 2021/22. It sets out the key curriculum and assessment arrangements for LCA Year 1 and Year 2 students for the academic year 2021/22. Further detail is provided in the guidance *Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA): Updated Advice for management and teachers of LCA 2021/2022 in Second-Level Schools and Centres for Education*.

Arrangements for the satisfactory completion of Modules

LCA Year 2 for the academic year 2021/22

- Students should complete a **minimum of two Key Assignments** to achieve the credits available for each module and maintain a minimum of 90% attendance.

LCA Year 1 for the academic year 2021/22

- Students should complete **all four Key Assignments** and a minimum of 90% attendance should be maintained.

For both Year 1 and Year 2 LCA Students

- The learning outcomes for each module should be completed and, where relevant, in line with public health advice.
- If a student cannot attend the school due to a valid Covid-19 related restriction, the school should be flexible in its approach to monitoring and recording attendance.
- In the event of a localised closure where learning is progressed remotely, schools should ensure that an appropriate system is in place to track students' engagement.
- Credits for the satisfactory completion of modules are submitted to the SEC through the LCA portal, following normal arrangements.

Arrangements for the completion of Tasks

LCA Year 2 for the academic year 2021/22

- Session 3: Students should complete the Practical Achievement Task **AND** either the Vocational Education Task or the Contemporary Issues Task. This means that LCA Year 2 students have one less task to complete.
- Session 4: As normal, students should complete the Personal Reflection (Part Two).

LCA Year 1 for the academic year 2021/22

- There is no change to the schedule for the completion of Student Tasks for LCA Year 1 students

For both Year 1 and Year 2 LCA Students

- Student Tasks should be planned and considered in line with up-to-date public health advice.
- Arrangements for the examination of the tasks, to include interviews, will be based on the most up-to-date public health advice at the time.

Arrangements for the completion of Final Examinations

Written examinations:

- There will be no adjustment to the final examination papers.
- A scaling, by a factor of 1.15 will be applied to the mark awarded to the written examination component.

Additional components (practical coursework, practical performance tests and oral examinations):

- **Practical coursework** in the LCA vocational specialisms of Graphics/Construction, Engineering, Technology, Childcare/Community Care and Craft & Design will be arranged subject to public health advice at the time. All briefs that do not issue at the start of the year, will be issued earlier than normal.
- **Practical performance tests** will proceed as normal and will be conducted under examination conditions, subject to public health advice.
- **Oral examinations/tests** will be conducted under examination conditions and will be subject to public health advice.

Curriculum updates LCA Year 1 - LCA Modular Descriptors

Four revised LCA module descriptors will be introduced in September 2021. These are:

- English and Communications
- Mathematical Applications
- Introduction to Information and Communication Technology
- Information and Communication Technology – Specialism

These modules can be accessed on <https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Senior-cycle/LCA/>. Continuing Professional Development support for the introduction of the modules will be provided by PDST.

Planning for work experience for the academic year 2021/22

- The school week comprises a minimum 28 hours instruction time, inclusive of work experience. During the two-year programme, LCA students must complete a minimum of two mandatory modules in work experience.
- It is expected that students will complete work experience in a workplace environment. If access to work experience is delayed or a student encounters difficulties in sourcing a work experience placement due to COVID-19, it may be necessary to adapt how the key assignment is completed for the mandatory modules.
- Alternative approaches to work placement may be considered including Education partnerships, Mentoring and Online training.

Additional Supports

- The Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) will have a range of LCA supports available for new coordinators and teachers.
- A full suite of supports provided by PDST will commence in early Autumn 2021. These will comprise a range of national seminars, webinars and collaboratives.
- Further information can be found on www.pdst.ie