



Bonus Points for Higher Level Leaving Certificate Mathematics

From 2012, the Higher Education Institutions are introducing a bonus scheme for Higher Level Leaving Certificate Mathematics. 25 points will be added to an applicant's points score for Higher Level Mathematics. For example, a Higher D3 in Mathematics will receive 70 points (45 common scale points + 25 bonus points). A Higher A1 will receive 125 points (100 common scale points + 25 bonus points).

The six highest scores in a single sitting of the examination are then added to give an applicant's total points score.

If an applicant presents more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate, the best six scores in the best single sitting will be counted for points purposes. The maximum cumulative LC points total will increase from 600 to 625. The bonus will apply irrespective of the year in which the examinations were taken.

Higher Education Institutions: All Higher Education Institutions participating in the central applications service will adopt the bonus points scheme with the exception of NCAD. NCAD uses portfolio scores for selection and does not use the common points scale.

Medicine: The maximum possible adjusted points score for applicants to medicine will increase from 560 to 565. (For all scores over 550, each additional 5 points will result in one extra point.) The baseline score of 480 points will still apply (bonus points can be included).

Examples:

Applicant 1:

Brian has the following seven results in LC 2011 and applies for entry in 2012			
Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Irish	Higher	C2	65
English	Ordinary	A1	60
Mathematics	Higher	D2	50+25 = 75
French	Higher	B2	80
Biology	Higher	C1	70
Geography	Ordinary	A1	60
History	Higher	B3	75
Add the best six scores, shown in bold .			Points = 425
For Brian, the net benefit of the bonus is 15 points, i.e. in the absence of a bonus points scheme for HL Mathematics, Brian would score 410 points.			

Applicant 2:

Rachel has the following seven results in LC 2012 and applies for entry in 2012			
Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Irish	Higher	B3	75
English	Higher	B2	80
Mathematics	Higher	D3	45+25 = 70
French	Higher	B2	80
Biology	Higher	A1	100
Geography	Higher	A1	100
History	Higher	B3	75
Add the best six scores, shown in bold .			Points = 510
For Rachel, there is no net benefit from the bonus, i.e. even after adding 25 points to the Mathematics score it is still not one of her best six scores.			

Applicant 3:

Marta has the following seven results in LC 2011 and applies for entry in 2012			
Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Irish	Higher	A1	100
English	Higher	A1	100
Mathematics	Higher	A1	100+25= 125
Spanish	Higher	A1	100
Polish	Higher	A1	100
Economics	Higher	A1	100
Physics	Higher	A1	100
Add the best six scores, shown in bold .			Points = 625
For Marta, the net benefit of the bonus is 25 points, giving her a maximum score of 625.			

Applicant 4:

Paul has the following seven results in LC 2009 and applies for entry to medicine in 2012.			
Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Irish	Higher	B1	85
English	Higher	A2	90
Mathematics	Higher	B1	85+25 = 110
French	Higher	B1	85
Biology	Higher	A1	100
Chemistry	Higher	A1	100
Physics	Higher	C1	70
Add the best six scores, shown in bold = 570 but apply the reduced scale rule for medicine *			Points = 554
* For Paul, the reduced points scale for medicine applications comes into effect, i.e. for all scores over 550, each additional 5 points will result in one extra point. Therefore a common scale 570 becomes a reduced scale 554. Paul must present a HPAT test from 2011 or 2012.			

The examples above are provided to illustrate the bonus points scheme for Higher Level Mathematics – we have made necessary assumptions including: the applicant has applied for courses in the CAO system; the applicant followed all instructions on the application form and in the Handbook; the applicant has met the minimum entry requirements for the courses to which she has applied.