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).

Entry to the great majority of courses in the CAO system in 2012 will be determined according to the following common points scale and accompanying conditions:

L.C. Grade	Higher Level	Ordinary Level	Maths Higher level Points *	Maths Foundation #
A1	100	60	125	20
A2	90	50	115	15
B1	85	45	110	10
B2	80	40	105	5
B3	75	35	100	
C1	70	30	95	
C2	65	25	90	
C3	60	20	85	
D1	55	15	80	
D2	50	10	75	
D3	45	5	70	

LCVP Grade	Points
Distinction	70
Merit	50
Pass	30

* 25 bonus points will be added to the points score for Leaving Certificate Higher Level Mathematics HD3 or better

Accompanying conditions:

1. The six best scores, in recognised subjects, in one Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points computation. If you passed Honours Maths, then you include the additional points at this point to identify your best six scores, see the points for Higher Level Maths column.
2. One sitting only of the Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points purposes.
3. In the case of certain subjects, e.g. Home Economics (General), Foundation Level Mathematics or Foundation Level Irish, some HEIs may not award the points shown.
   If in any doubt, check with the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEIs.
4. Remember, you must first meet the minimum entry requirements in order to be considered for entry to a course. The bonus points are included in the overall points calculation only when Mathematics is one of the applicant's best six subjects following the addition of the bonus.

Please see the next page for some worked examples.

Examples:

Applicant 1:

Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Brian has the following seven results in LC 2011 and applies for entry in 2012			
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:

Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Rachel has the following seven results in LC 2012 and applies for entry in 2012			
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:

Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Marta has the following seven results in LC 2011 and applies for entry in 2012			
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:

Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Paul has the following seven results in LC 2009 and applies for entry to **medicine** in 2012.			
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.