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## Bridges to College Presentation 3 (Module 3.8)

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# Module 3.8: Opportunities and College.

Title: Understanding the Links between Higher Education and the Labour Market



***“Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything learned at school” – Albert Einstein***



# Reflecting on the past

## **Question:**

How would you define education?

## **To do:**

Design an inspirational quote which you would like people to remember in the future.

## **Reward:**

Prize for the group with the most inspiring quote

# Exploring Education

We will explore education together by discussing these questions you answered earlier:

1. What do you think education is?
2. Do you think it's important to have an education? If so, why?
3. Do you know the structure of the Irish education system?
4. What are higher education and further education?
5. What is the labour market?
6. What is the importance of the labour market?
7. Do you know what the National Qualifications Framework is?
8. What is a qualification? Give three examples.
9. What are your options when ...
  - You leave second-level with a Leaving Cert?
  - You leave third-level with your qualification?

# 1. What do you think education is?



CB 2006

**Education is the process by which:**

Knowledge or skills are developed through a learning process.

**Where?**

The process of learning usually occurs in a place of academic excellence e.g. school, college, university.



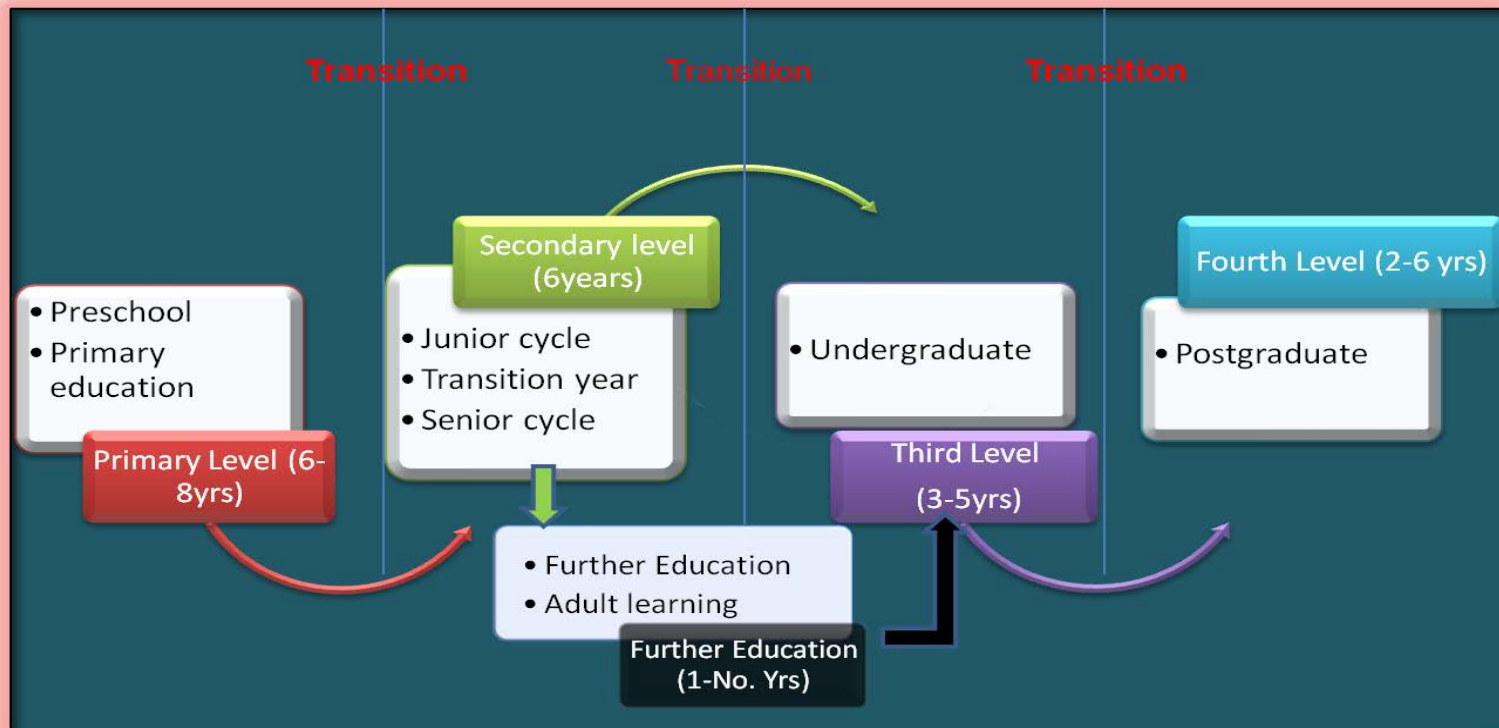


## 2. Do you think having an education is important? If so, why?

Education gives you the knowledge and skills that increase your ability to meet your basic needs, widen the range of options open to you in every sphere of life, and enable you to influence the direction your life takes. Your skills also enhance your sense of self-worth, security and belonging.



### 3. Do you know the structure of the Irish education system?



The education system is a continuous 'step' process and offers numerous opportunities to you at every level.



## 4. What is higher education?

- Higher education is a non-compulsory stage of learning that occurs at Institutes of Technology, Universities and Colleges.
- Award types: Higher certificate, ordinary degrees, honours degrees, Master's or PhDs, through a range of different taught or research courses.

## What is further education?

Further education is also non-compulsory education, and is in addition to education received at secondary school. Education received in a further education institute is different to that offered at a higher education institute such as a university. It includes award types such as a FETAC award.



## 5. What is the labour market?

- It's the market where workers find paid work and employers find willing workers. It can be a local or a national market, or an international market, which is made up of smaller interacting labour markets competing for individuals with different qualifications and skills.

## 6. What is the importance of the labour market?

- Creates jobs
- Increases affluence
- Provides financial security to individuals
- Provides a society with skills and knowledge
- Can reduce crime rates since people find gainful employment
- Increases demand for skilled labour
- Influences the education curriculum.
- Increases the availability of different course types

## 7. Do you know what the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is?

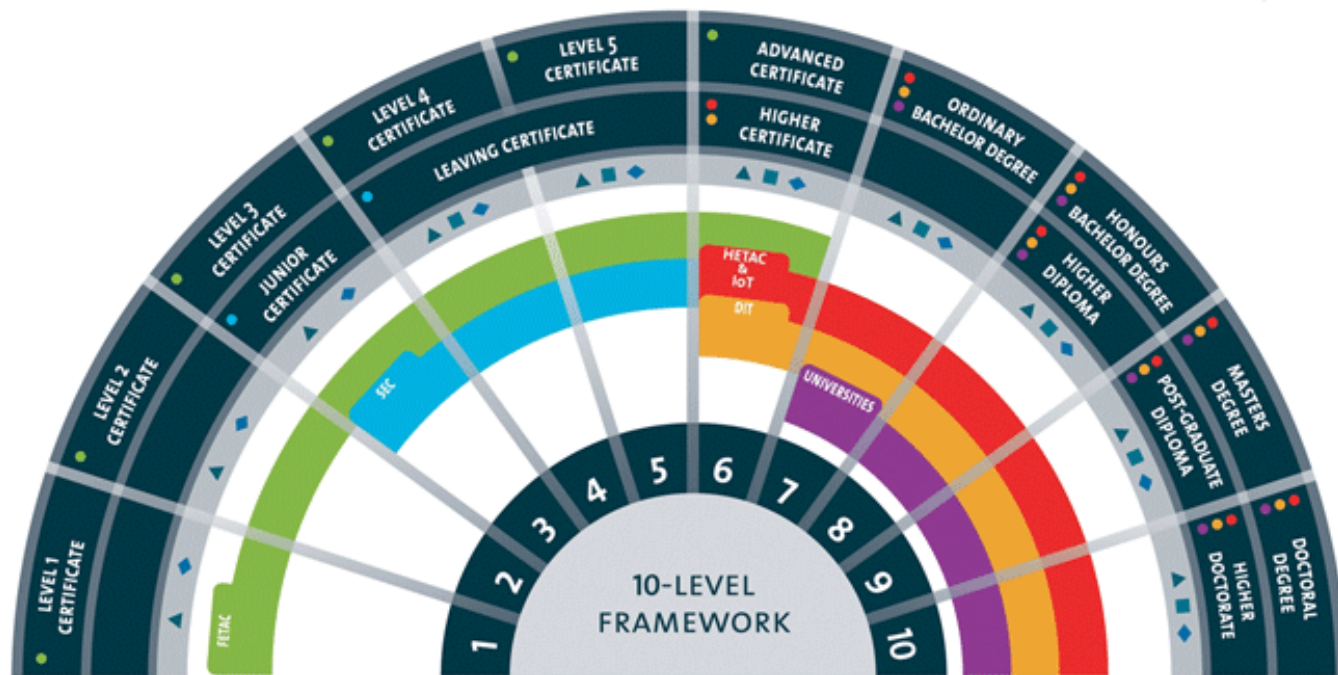
The NFQ is the structured mechanism for recognising all education and training in Ireland.

The framework of awards have:

- ✓ NFQ **Level** (1-10), which tells you about the standard of learning
- ✓ NFQ **Award Type**, which tells you about the purpose, volume and progression opportunities associated with a particular award

# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



## 8. What is a qualification?

- It's a document obtained after a certain level of training, education or similar. It implies a quality, an ability or an accomplishment and makes a person suitable for a particular position or task.

Call out some examples from the Framework

### **Examples:**

Certificate (level 1, 2)

Junior Certificate (level 3)

Leaving Certificate (level 4)

Certificate (level 5)

Higher Certificate (level 6)

Ordinary degree (or Diploma) (level 7)

Honours degree (level 8), higher diploma (level 8)

Master's (level 9)

Doctorate (level 10)

## 9. What are your options when....?

You leave second-level with a Leaving Cert?

- Find a job
- Begin an apprenticeship
- Go to higher education
- Go to further education

You leave third-level with your qualification?

- Find a specific job you always wanted
- Progress to postgraduate education
- Travel worldwide with qualification





## Useful links

- <http://www.dit.ie/>
- <http://www.heai.ie/>
- <http://www.nqai.ie/>
- <http://www.educationireland.ie/>
- <http://www.careersportal.ie/>
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