

Section 1 - Welcome to CSPE

What is CSPE?

Civic, Social and Political Education

CSPE is a Junior Certificate course that prepares young people for active citizenship.

Active citizenship involves:

- Being aware of your rights
- Acting responsibly
- Getting involved in issues that affect you
- Getting involved in your community
- Caring for others in your community

The CSPE course is based on *human rights* and *social responsibilities*.

Course Concepts

There are **seven key concepts** central to the study of CSPE:

1. Rights and Responsibilities
2. Human Dignity
3. Stewardship
4. Democracy
5. Law
6. Development
7. Interdependence

There are **four units of study**, namely:

1. The Individual
2. The Community
3. The State (Ireland)
4. The Wider World

How is CSPE assessed?

Assessment of CSPE is carried out in **two** ways:

1. Submission of *either*:

a **Report on an Action Project (RAP)**

OR

a **Course Work Assessment Book (CWAB)**

60%

2. A **written terminal examination**

40%

What is an Action Project?

An Action Project involves you, the student, **taking action** on an issue your class feels strongly about. Your action project must link into one of the seven key concepts central to CSPE.

Action Project Examples

- Guest Speakers
- Visits
- Fundraising
- Surveys
- Mock Elections
- Awareness Days
- Tree Planting
- Recycling Campaign
- Letter Writing
- Lobbying
- Celebrating designated Days

Action Project Ideas

Students should complete **two** action projects over their three years of study. These action projects should link into one or more of the seven course concepts. Below are some examples of action projects.

Examples of Action Projects

Visits

Arrange visits to:

- The Dáil
- A local Courthouse
- A prison
- A human rights organisation
- A centre for the Homeless
- A centre for Asylum Seekers
- An animal welfare/rescue centre
- A local council

Guest Speakers

- A representative from a human rights organisation
- A Traveller/member of a traveller organisation
- A refugee/asylum seeker
- A representative of an organisation that works with refugees/asylum seekers
- A representative of an organisation that works with those with disabilities
- A representative from a homeless agency
- A local TD
- A local Councillor
- The Community Garda
- A member from Eco-Unesco

Guest Speakers (*continued*)

- A barrister
- A solicitor
- A representative of the National Consumer Agency
- A representative of an NGO working with developing countries (Trócaire, Concern, Bothar etc.)
- A representative of Fairtrade Ireland

Fundraising

Fundraising for:

- A human rights organisation
- An NGO working with the developing world
- A local development project
- An organisation working with the homeless community
- A country affected by a natural disaster (e.g. earthquake etc.)

Organising Petitions

You could organise a petition for one of the following:

- A local issue you feel strongly about
- A law/bye-law you are unhappy with
- A decision made by the government
- The closure of a local service (library, post office etc.)

Surveys

You could carry out a survey on one of the following issues:

- Bullying in your school
- Recycling
- Water usage
- Crime in your area
- Political awareness

Awareness Days in your School

- Human Rights
- Animal Welfare
- Homelessness
- Refugee/Asylum Seekers
- Fairtrade
- An issue central to Stewardship (e.g. Recycling, Carbon Number etc.)
- An issue central to Development
- The developing world

Celebrations

- Human Rights Day
- Europe Day
- World Peace Day
- World Food Day
- United Nations Day
- World Environment Day

Elections/Mock Elections

- Organising Student Council Elections
- A mock election of a political party/Best Footballer/Best Actor or Actress etc.