



THINKING ABOUT
YOUR FUTURE

(HOICES) TOP TIPS



Don't choose subjects based on what your friends are doing and whether or not you like the teacher

Focus on the subjects YOU want to take. After all, teaching staff may change and not all friendships last forever!

Choose subjects that you enjoy

You are more likely to achieve good grades which will give you more choices for Further Education (e.g. College and Sixth Form).

Choose subjects that best suit your learning style

For example, History can involve a lot of reading and writing whereas other subjects like Art and Science, can be more hands on.

Discuss your options with your parents/carers and teachers before committing to them

This can help you get your thoughts together, but make a decision that is right for you, not a decision based on what others think you should do.

"I asked my teachers why they chose their subjects to teach, my Biology teacher's story was really inspiring and she'd been really similar to me when she was my age, loved science and was really interested in how the body works. She'd taken triple Science and loved it. In the end I took triple Science so I could study Biology separately and then History, Geography and Sport."

"I picked one course I enjoyed doing (History), one course that I'd done really well in that year (Religious Studies) and one course that I hadn't studied before (Computer Science)."

CHOOSING YOUR GCSE OPTIONS

Each school is different when it comes to what GCSE subjects you must take and which subjects are optional.

You will have to take a core set of subjects, which will include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science

Typically, optional subjects include:

- Arts subjects (e.g. Art, Drama, Dance, Photography)
- Design and Technology (e.g. Food Technology, Graphic Design, Textiles)
- Humanities (e.g. History, Geography)
- Modern Foreign Languages (e.g. French, Spanish, German)

There are no set combinations that are “the best” you have to decide what subjects will work best for you - have a look over the next page at some of our examples for inspiration!

HAIR & BEAUTY
ELECTRONICS **ECONOMICS**
ASTRONOMY **BUSINESS**
FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION
STATISTICS **PERFORMING ARTS**
GEOLOGY **GRAPHIC PRODUCTS**
ENGINEERING **ART & DESIGN**
DANCE **PHOTOGRAPHY**
RELIGIOUS STUDIES **HISTORY**
DRAMA **ENGLISH LITERATURE**
MUSIC **PRODUCT DESIGN**
IT **GEOGRAPHY** **GERMAN**
PSYCHOLOGY **PHYSICS** **MEDIA**
MATHS **SPORT** **SOCIOLOGY**
SCIENCE **CHILD DEVELOPMENT**
ENGLISH LANGUAGE **FRENCH**
COMPUTER SCIENCE **PHYSICS**

WHICH SUBJECTS TO STUDY

One of the trickiest decisions when choosing your options can be deciding how to mix and match your courses - there's no set best way to do it, you have to go with what feels right for you.

Have a look through our examples to get a bit of inspiration about how your choices might look and where they may lead!

If you are feeling a little bit lost or stuck with how to start, try one of the quick quizzes below to get started!

www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz

Short quiz, takes about 5 minutes, based on making choices of "Are you this or are you that", gives you an animal and a few celebrities you share your personality with and suggests careers you might be interested in.

www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test

A longer version of the above quiz, at the end gives you a description of your personality and suggestions of careers or study areas.

www.startprofile.com

You'll need to register - but it is free! Create a profile about your likes and dislikes, what your interests are etc. You'll then get a range of careers and courses to look through.

THE MOTIVATOR



You know how to challenge, influence and get the best out of people.

Loves being active

Practical & hands on

Encouraging

Competitive

Which Subjects:

Sport, Public Services, Psychology, Physical Education

Further Study & Careers:

Police Studies, Fire Fighter, Military Police, Sports Development, Sports Conditioning, Sports Therapist, PE Teacher, Coaching, Personal Trainer

THE ENTREPRENEUR



You might enjoy reading and writing. You might also have an interest in other languages.

Thinks outside the box

Resilient

Clear communicator

Determined

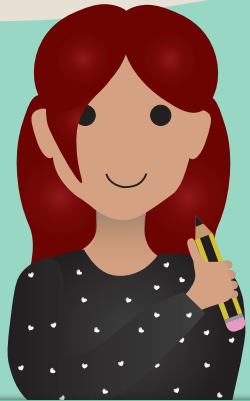
Which Subjects:

Business, Media, Maths, Design Technology, Computing, Politics

Further Study & Careers:

Marketing, Public Relations, Human Resources, Learning Development, Administrator, Entrepreneur, Self Employed, Auditor, Brand Consultant, Market Research, Account Manager

THE WORDSMITH



Attention to detail

Persuasive

Creative

Clear communicator

Which Subjects:

English Language and Literature, History, French, German, Spanish, Latin

Further Study & Careers:

Journalism, Public Relations, Creative Writer, Translator, Copywriter, Teacher, Magazine/Newspaper Editor, Sales, Marketing, Script Writer, Events Management

You might enjoy reading and writing. You might also have an interest in other languages.

THE PERFORMER



Resilient

Creative

Confident

Enthusiastic

Which Subjects:

Drama, Music, Dance

Further Study & Careers:

Performing Arts, Backstage Arts, Musical Theatre, Costume Design, Playwright, Props Maker, Music Journalism, Record Label Management, Sound Engineer

You enjoy performing or creating something expressive - through music or movement.

THE INVESTIGATOR



Analytical

Problem solver

Perceptive

Asks questions

Which Subjects:

English Language and Literature, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Studies

Further Study & Careers:

Journalism, Marketing, Public Relations, Archaeology, History, Conservation, Politics, Economics, Law,

You look under the surface, you like to try to find answers to hard answer questions.

THE CREATOR



Creative

Thinks outside the box

Enjoys practical activity

Problem solver

Which Subjects:

Art, Textiles, Graphic Products, Product Design, Engineering, Media, Photography, Hair & Beauty

Further Study & Careers:

Fashion, Costume Design, Graphic Design, Furniture Design, 3D Crafts, Fine Art, Film Studies, Sculpture, Media Make-up, Advertising, Storyboarding, Illustration

You like to make things, either by hand or by computer, you like to come up with ideas.

THE TECHIE



Loves working with technology

Problem solver

Creative

Clear communicator

Which Subjects:

Computer Science, Information Technology, Media, Engineering, Electronics

Further Study & Careers:

Games Design, Coding, Network Engineer, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Cyber Security, E-Learning Development, Social Media Management, Digital Marketing

You enjoy using technology and work best when your projects involve using computers.

THE SCIENTIST



Logical

Analytical

Problem solver

Clear communicator

Which Subjects:

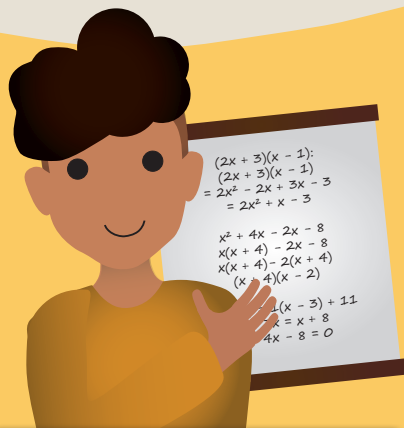
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Geography, Psychology, Engineering, Food Science & Nutrition

Further Study & Careers:

Biomedical Sciences, Doctor, Statistics, Geology, Zoology, Meteorology, Veterinary Sciences, Forensic Science, Astrophysics, Optician, Palaeontology, Pharmacology

You like to find patterns and enjoy trying to solve problems - finding the why's and how's.

THE MATHEMAGICIAN



$$\begin{aligned} &(2x + 3)(x - 1) \\ &(2x + 3)(x - 1) \\ &= 2x^2 - 2x + 3x - 3 \\ &= 2x^2 + x - 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &x^2 + 4x - 2x - 8 \\ &x(x + 4) - 2(x + 4) \\ &x(x + 4) - 2(x + 4) \\ &(x + 4)(x - 2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &-(x - 3) + 11 \\ &x = x + 8 \\ &4x - 8 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Analytical

Problem solver

Logical

Good with numbers

Which Subjects:

Maths, Statistics, Business, Politics

Further Study & Careers:

Accountancy, Statistician, Safety Engineering, Book Keeper, Auditor, Actuary, Credit Controller, Stock Broker, Forensic Analyst, Software Engineer, Financial Planner, Money Management, Insurance Broker

You enjoy the challenge of solving problems and finding patterns in numbers.

THE NURTURER



Considerate

Nurturing

Empathetic

Patient

Which Subjects:

Child Development, Sociology, Psychology, Health & Social Care

Further Study & Careers:

Social Work, Teaching, Nursing, Family Support Work, Childcare Practitioner, Special Educational Needs Co-ordination, Safeguarding, Nutritionist, Psychologist, Counsellor, Youth Worker

You enjoy spending time around people and like putting their wellbeing first

(CHOICES) AFTER YEAR 11

This is known as “Further Education”, you might choose to study at College, Sixth Form or work and study as an Apprentice.

Which route has the most time based in college/sixth form or other classrooms?



Which route has the most time spent with employers, for example in work experience?



Which routes have the most practical work?



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

VocATIONAL

Specialist work-related qualifications (e.g. BTEC, CACHE, T-Levels) are available in a range of sectors, such as business, IT, health and engineering. You can study these at a range of levels.

A LEVELS

Subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training or work. Three or more A-Levels can be studied over two years.

APPRENTICESHIP

A combination of studying and practical on-the-job training. Apprentices work alongside experienced staff, gain job-specific skills, earn a wage, and get time to study.

HIGHER EDUCATION (CHOICES)

This is known as “Higher Education”, you might choose to study at College, Sixth Form or work and study as an Apprentice.

HIGHER EDUCATION (CHOICES)

HIGHER / DEGREE LEVEL APPRENTICESHIP

Specialist work-related qualifications (e.g. BTEC, CACHE, T-Levels) are available in a range of sectors, such as business, IT, health and engineering. You can study these at a range of levels.

HIGHER NATIONAL (CERTIFICATE)

Often abbreviated to HNC, Level 4 work related, or vocational higher education qualification - for example Health and Social Care.

HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA

Often abbreviated to HND, Level 5 work related, or vocational higher education qualification, once you've completed a HNC you would progress to HND.

FOUNDATION DEGREE

Foundation degrees are ideal if you are unsure about taking a full degree or are working alongside. Usually you can continue for a further year to gain a full degree.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

Level 6 higher education qualification that typically takes three or four years to complete, normally at a university or college.

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

Degrees which can be studied after completion of an undergraduate degree.
Level 7 - Masters or Postgraduate
Level 8 - Doctorate (this is the highest level)

HIGHER EDUCATION TRUTH & MYTHS

Some courses have very full timetables & are very structured - but on average you'll be expected to be in contact with your tutors 3 days a week, the rest will be independent study.

MYTH

Full-time Higher Education courses mean you'll have to be in University 9am - 5pm every Monday to Friday

MYTH

University & Higher Education is only for people who are good at "academic" courses

Just like at school, Higher Education courses are varied; they can be a mix of theory based, creative and practical projects to complete.

You'll only start to repay the loan when you earn over a certain amount, this amount is linked to average graduate pay.

MYTH

I'll have to start repaying my debts as soon as I finish my course

If you want to stay at home - of course you can! You can also choose to live in halls (large student accommodation) or private accommodation.

TRUTH

You can stay at home and go to University

MYTH

You can only go to University & Higher Education if you study A-Levels

There are many qualifications accepted by universities e.g. AS & A2 levels, BTEC, EPQ. Some courses may need specific qualifications - e.g. Grade 5 English.

Many universities have a dyslexia service to support students and provide practical help.

MYTH

You cannot study a Higher Education course if you have dyslexia

MYTH

A personal tutor will check you are completing your work every week

You might have a personal tutor, or a lecturer you work with on each topic - they will provide support but won't check you are completing the work.

MY FUTURE PLANS

Try searching "How to be a....." in Google and note down what qualifications you'd need e.g. GCSEs/BTECs/A Levels/Degrees



SKILLS

QUALIFICATIONS

WORK EXPERIENCE

A CAREER I'M INTERESTED IN:

A CAREER I'M INTERESTED IN:

A CAREER I'M INTERESTED IN:

WHAT IF I (CHANGE MY MIND?

I want to study completely different subjects at college/sixth form to the subjects I studied at GCSE

Many students study completely different subjects at college/sixth form to the ones they studied at GCSE, so it is possible!

Many colleges/sixth forms and apprenticeship providers ask, as a minimum, for specific grades in your core GCSE subjects (English, Maths, Science).

For some subjects at college/sixth form, you may not be able to take these subjects for GCSE (for example, Animal Management), so check the entry requirements and contact the college, sixth form or apprenticeship provider if you are unsure.

I have changed my mind about what I want to do in the future, and now I am studying subjects that I am no longer interested in

Talk to your school/college/sixth form. It may be possible to change the course(s) you are studying to the ones you are now interested in or they may be able to advise you what the best route is for you to take to get to your chosen career.



If it is not possible for you to change courses, look at gaining some work experience in the industry you are now interested in (for example, if you are now interested in pursuing a career in Childcare, but you are studying Law, see if you can volunteer in a children's nursery to gain experience working with children).

Again, if it is not possible for you to change courses, do still put lots of effort into achieving good grades in those courses. Think about the 'transferable' skills you can gain from these courses how these can be useful in the career you are now interested in (for example, developing your leadership skills studying Sport, could also be useful in a career/university degree in Business).



KNOW



BECOME



CHOOSE



UNDERSTAND



PRACTISE



futurehy | **NCOP
HIGHER
YORK**