



Choosing your KS4 options – advice from your careers advisor

General guidance

- Most GCSEs will be good general preparation for further learning and work so it's not crucial to choose specific subjects to fit with a specific career at this stage.
- There are a few things to bear in mind when choosing:
 - If you want to have a career in Art or Design in the future, then choose an Arts focused GCSE
 - If you want to deal with customers from other countries or work abroad then a language will be very useful
- Some careers such as architecture, veterinary medicine, working with languages etc. may require specific degree courses.
- In this case work backwards - to get into these degree courses you may need specific A levels/Level 3 qualifications, and to do these you may need certain GCSE subjects and grades.
- Check out what GCSE/A level subjects and grades you need for particular degree courses on [informed choices](#) and [UCAS](#).

How not to choose a subject

Choosing a subject because:

- You've heard it is easy
- Your parents want you to do it
- You like the teacher (you may not be in their class)
- Your friend says they're doing it! (you might not be in the same class)

How to choose a subject

- Choose subjects that you will **enjoy** and be **successful** in
- **Attend a Year 9 options event at school** (bring your parents too). Make sure you find out about what is involved in the subjects and what you will be learning about. It might be very different to what you have studied so far. Does it sound interesting? Do you think you will enjoy it?
- **Ask your parents and teachers for advice** as they know you best, and if you have any friends or brothers and sisters who have done the course already - ask them about it.

- **Find out how the course is assessed?** Are you someone who does better in coursework than in exams? If so, some of the vocational (work related) courses might be worth considering.
- **Trying to choose between two subjects?** Think about how each option fits with your other GCSEs. Does a subject go well with your other choices? Or does a subject provide a welcome change? It can be good to choose subjects that aren't all practical or essay based.

Finding out about careers

No idea what you want to do after your GCSEs? Don't worry, choose a mix of KS4 subjects to give yourself as many different options as possible.

If you like one of your GCSE subjects and are looking for ideas of what careers or courses it could lead onto – [go to start with a subject.](#)

Do the [Skills Profile](#) and find out what skills you have.

Got an idea of a job or job sector you think might suit you then check out the [job profiles in the job sectors.](#)

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1. Start with you
2. Explore your options
3. Plan your next steps

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- My Subjects
- My Job Sectors
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