

# HOW DO I CHOOSE MY GCSE OPTIONS?

You have the opportunity now to start shaping your education! We understand deciding on your GCSE options can offer difficult choices. This will give you some information and guidance to help, and things to think about. There's also some useful links and resources to explore further.

We wish you the best of luck with your GCSE Options!

## THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CHOICES

### DEMONSTRATE YOUR STRENGTHS

Your choices and grades will show how suitable you are for certain jobs and education applications. GCSEs are a set of 'tools' that will help you access your future.

### FUTURE OPTIONS

The qualifications you gain from school may determine the options available to you after Yr11; the better your qualifications the more choice and flexibility you will have.

### SUBJECT FLEXIBILITY

The subject offer by the school is intended to keep your future options open – allow you to retain as much choice at this early stage in your journey as to what career options are still open to you.

### SKILLS

Your choices will also include key functional skills that the Government set out as a minimum achievement from your education.

## USEFUL LINKS

### YOUR GCSE CHOICES

**Everything you need to know about choosing GCSE Options >**

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p)

**What I wish I'd known before >**

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7jtd6f](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7jtd6f)

**What are my GCSE Options? >**

[successatschool.org/advisedetails/508/What-are-my-GCSE-Options](http://successatschool.org/advisedetails/508/What-are-my-GCSE-Options)

**Choosing GCSEs >**

[www.getcareerconfident.co.uk/resources/choosing-gcse-videos](http://www.getcareerconfident.co.uk/resources/choosing-gcse-videos)

### YOUR FUTURE CHOICES

#### SCHOOL SUPPORT NOW

Your school will help guide you through your studies and understanding your future options, using resources like these. Some of these you might want to consider exploring yourself >

[www.teachingresourcesupport.com/lessons/2/topics](http://www.teachingresourcesupport.com/lessons/2/topics)

#### HIGHER QUALIFICATION CAREERS

Explore some of the careers that will need a university qualification to access >

[www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-a-to-z#section-A](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-a-to-z#section-A)

#### FUTURE CAREERS

You don't have to decide your future career now, but it can be helpful to begin exploring possibilities, as this might inform your choices >

[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

#### OTHER CAREER PATHWAYS.

[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

## CAREER

### Do you know what career you might be interested in?

If you have an idea, look up the qualifications and progression route to take - you can research this online or talk to the Careers Lead in school.

If you're not sure, keep your options open and choose a good balance of different subjects.

## COLLEGE OR SIXTH FORM

### Do you know what your post-16 (after GCSEs) options are?

What type of study is available to you locally; how can they support your ambitions? What are their limitations?

What qualification entry requirements do these options ask for?

## CAPABILITY

### Do you know what you are good at?

What subjects do you excel at? Do your teachers and grades reflect that opinion? Which subjects do you find the hardest to study? Studying a subject you are good at may mean you are more likely to enjoy it and stay motivated.

## PASSION

### Do you know what you enjoy?

Which subject areas do you look forward to most? You will be studying the subjects for two years, so it'll help if you enjoy it! It may also help you work harder and you are more likely to do well.

## CHOICES

### Do you understand your subject options?

Your school will schedule your options so that you do not lean too heavily on a narrow set of skills that would limit your future options (opting for all creative/arts-based choices for example). Your school may offer you History or Geography, French or Spanish; discuss with your Careers Lead the benefits of one subject versus another - however, these are well-balanced subjects that will leave you with 'open' rather than 'closed' options.

## CONTENT

### Do you know how the subjects will be taught?

The content of the subjects you have studied and enjoyed to date may differ in GCSE study; the school will advise the components of this course and how it is tested - make sure you have understood their offer.

*"I would advise that if you don't like a teacher, don't use this as a reason to not pursue a subject that interests you. If the content is interesting, you may find it in yourself to continue this further and it might be the subject you study at university!"*

Maya  
Biomedical Science



## FURTHER QUESTIONS?



Email us [participate@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:participate@sussex.ac.uk)



Speak with your school's Career Lead



Research and contact your local Post-16 education providers (colleges, sixth forms etc)

*"I chose French, History and Art for GCSE. Firstly, I picked French as it was a subject I was good at and it came with benefits such as more pathways for universities, employers and career choices. Then, I chose Art because I wanted a break from subjects that required essay writing and memorising, plus I enjoyed drawing and using different mediums. Finally, I chose History as I was really passionate about it and knew that I would enjoy it through thick and thin."*



Emily  
History Student