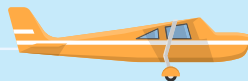




Higher
Horizons+

Who will you become?



It's Your Choice

A Guide for Year 9 Students



National Collaborative
Outreach Programme



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Starting work may seem a long way off, but the subjects you study now can make a real difference to your future. Starting to think about what job you would like to do when you're older helps you to plan your next steps.

What are the options?

In Year 9, you can select some of the subjects you would like to study in Years 10 and 11. This is called choosing your options. Some schools are now asking pupils to choose their options in Year 8.

Everyone has to study Maths, English and Science, usually at GCSE level.

The other subjects you can take will depend on your school. You should be able to choose at least one course from each of the following areas: Arts (such as Music and Drama); Design and Technology; Humanities (such as History and Geography); and Modern Foreign Languages. Sometimes you can also choose new subjects, such as Law or Sociology.

Alongside GCSEs, you can study for work-related qualifications, which are known as Vocational Qualifications or Technical Awards. They can help you develop practical skills in subjects such as Construction, Computing, and Childcare.





Making the right choices

It's important to consider your choices carefully because you'll be studying the subjects you choose for the next two years, and it's no fun being stuck with one you don't really like.

It's also worth looking ahead as decisions you make now may narrow your choices later. What do you want to do after Year 11? Can this help you decide which subjects to choose? For example, if you want to become an actor, it may be useful to choose Drama or Performing Arts.

Who can help?

Talk to a range of people to get different views:

- Ask your subject teachers, form tutor, or careers adviser for advice.
- Speak to your parents, carers or relatives.
- Look out for special options assemblies or evenings at school.
- Read any information or handouts you are given.

What to think about

Take some time to think things through.

- Consider which subjects you are good at, are interested in, or enjoy.
- Look at the way courses are marked. If you don't like exams, you may prefer some subjects which include more coursework.
- Choosing a balance of subjects may help to keep your future options open.
- If you're 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? If you're taking lots of essay-based subjects, it can be nice to include one choice with a more practical focus.
- Remember, if you feel you have made the wrong choice don't panic! It's not a problem. Try to do as well as you can in that subject, and remember that you can often study different subjects at College or Sixth Form if you need to.

What's next after GCSEs?

After you have taken your GCSEs and finished Year 11 your next options are:

- Sixth Form at School
- Sixth Form College
- Further Education College
- Apprenticeship

At Sixth Form (School or College) or at a Further Education College, you can study either A Levels or a vocational course such as a BTEC qualification, a mixture of the two, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma (read 'Courses Explained' in this guide for more information on these courses). This study option is full time. Look at Sixth Form and College prospectuses and websites to find out more about the courses they offer.

If you choose to apply for an Apprenticeship you will combine work with studying. You will follow a training programme, either by attending College one day a week or in a block of weeks, or sometimes the trainers will visit you whilst you are working and train you in the workplace.

To find apprenticeships in your area log onto:

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



Courses Explained

A Levels

A Levels provide the perfect way to study some of your favourite subjects in greater depth. You can study more than one subject and can try new subjects that you haven't studied at school. Usually you will study three or four A Levels for two years and have exams at the end.

Vocational Courses (e.g. BTEC Nationals)

If you have a good idea of the type of career you would like to follow, or exams aren't for you, then a vocational course might be the best option. These courses are continuously assessed by project work and assignments. They might also include a number of hours work experience. Vocational courses are offered in 'sectors' e.g. Health and Social Care, Construction, Media etc.

NVQ

The National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are skills based qualifications, where you'll get the practical, work based training that will help you to do a particular job. NVQs are usually offered as part of an Apprenticeship. Training can be one day a week at College, or a trainer will come into your workplace to train and assess you on different NVQ units.

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)

The International Baccalaureate programme provides the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects (Languages, Social Studies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, and Arts) and benefit from a balanced approach to learning. An alternative to A Levels, the Diploma also has three core elements involving independent research. Globally recognised, this award could be ideal if you want to study several subjects in greater detail.

Apprenticeships

An Apprenticeship doesn't just give you the opportunity to 'earn while you learn,' you also gain a nationally recognised qualification such as an NVQ. Apprenticeships come in different levels: a Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship is equal to GCSE-level study, while a Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship is equal to A Levels or a BTEC National Diploma. Intermediate Apprenticeships usually last for two years, but some Advanced Apprenticeships can last for three or four years. You will be working all week in a job and then training can be one day a week at college, or a trainer will come into your workplace to train and assess you there on different units.

You can search for apprenticeships at [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)



Which Career?

There are a huge range of different careers out there. Some you will know about because your family or people you know will be doing that type of job, but others you might be interested in in the future may not even exist yet. If you would like to find out more about different careers, you can speak to your Careers Adviser in school or search online at nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles

This will help you to find out a lot of information about what that job is really like, and if you would like to do that type of work every day. It will also explain what skills you need to have or to develop so that you can do that job effectively. You may change your mind about certain careers ideas once you have found out more about what the job entails.

There are a lot of different careers that require you to have gained a Bachelor's Degree. For some careers this Degree has to be in a certain subject. For example, to become a Vet you will need a Veterinary Science Degree.

There are some careers where you don't need to have gained a Degree in a specific subject, you just need to have studied and passed one to prove that you have reached that educational level. Studying a Degree gives you lots of skills that are useful for all sorts of careers.

Some Career Ideas

If you don't know which job you would like to do in the future, use the following pages to get some ideas by looking up your favourite subjects and seeing which careers they could lead to.

To find out more about different careers visit nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles and look at the different job profiles by searching for the careers we've included below.

You could also try the 'Buzz Quiz' on the UCAS website which might give you some careers ideas based on your personality: ucas.com/ucas/16-18-choices/find-career-ideas/buzz-quiz

If you are interested in:

English

Careers You Might Like:

- Author
- Care Assistant
- Careers Adviser
- Childcare Assistant
- Editorial Assistant
- Graphic Designer
- Hotel Manager
- Information Officer
- Journalist/Presenter
- Newspaper/Book/Magazine Editor
- Web Author/Designer
- Psychologist
- Public Relations/Advertising
- Social Worker
- Solicitor
- Speech Therapist
- Teacher (Primary or Secondary)
- Technical Writer
- Translator
- Marketing Officer



Health and Social Care

Careers You Might Like:

- Careers Advisor
- Charity Fundraiser
- Classroom Assistant
- Deaf Interpreter
- Educational Psychologist
- Education Welfare Officer
- Health Care Promotion Officer
- Life Coach
- Nanny/Au Pair
- Nurse/Midwife
- Nursery Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Teacher
- Residential Care Assistant
- Social Worker
- School Secretary
- Speech Therapist
- Support Worker
- Youth Worker

If you are interested in:



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Did you know? You don't start paying your student loan back until you earn over £25,000



Maths

Careers You Might Like:

- Accountant
- Actuary
- Air-traffic Control
- Astronomer
- Bank Manager
- Biomedical Lab Assistant
- Building Technician
- Carpenter/Joiner
- Craft Engineer
- Economist
- Finance Clerk
- Financial Adviser
- Market Researcher
- Mechanical Fitter
- Organisational Psychologist
- Teacher (Primary or Secondary)
- Retail Assistant
- Surveyor
- Engineer



Computer Science

Careers You Might Like:

- Air Traffic Control
- Architect
- Business Administrator
- Business Analyst
- Call Centre Staff
- Computer Programmer
- Data-Input Clerk
- Games Designer
- Graphic Designer
- Hardware Engineer
- Help Desk Operator
- Information Scientist/Librarian
- Journalist
- Logistics Manager
- Software Engineer
- Systems Analyst
- Telecommunications Engineer
- Vehicle Technician
- Webmaster

History

Careers You Might Like:

- Antique Dealer
- Archaeologist
- Architect/Architect Technician
- Archivist
- Art Gallery Conservator
- Costume Designer for TV and Film
- Economic Development Officer
- Newspaper/Book/Magazine Editor
- Education Officer
- Teacher
- Journalist
- Librarian
- Museum Curator
- National Trust Warden
- Planning Officer
- Politician
- Solicitor
- Tourism Officer
- Housing Officer

Geography

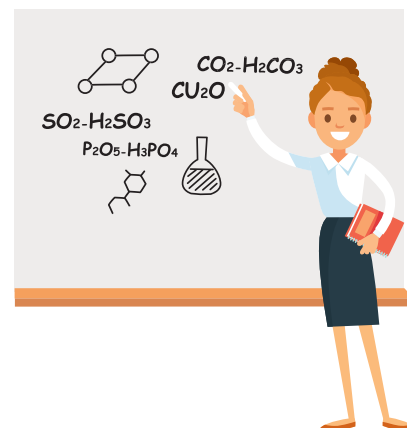
Careers You Might Like:

- Archaeologist
- Armed Services
- Cartographer
- Countryside Warden
- Merchant Navy Deck Officer
- Environmental Scientist
- Estate Agent
- Farmer
- Geologist
- GIS Operator
- Land Management
- Market Researcher
- Meteorologist
- Mining Engineer
- Pilot/Navigator
- Teacher
- Soil Scientist
- Surveyor
- Town and Country Planning Officer
- Transport/Logistics Manager
- Travel Agent
- Travel Writer/Correspondent

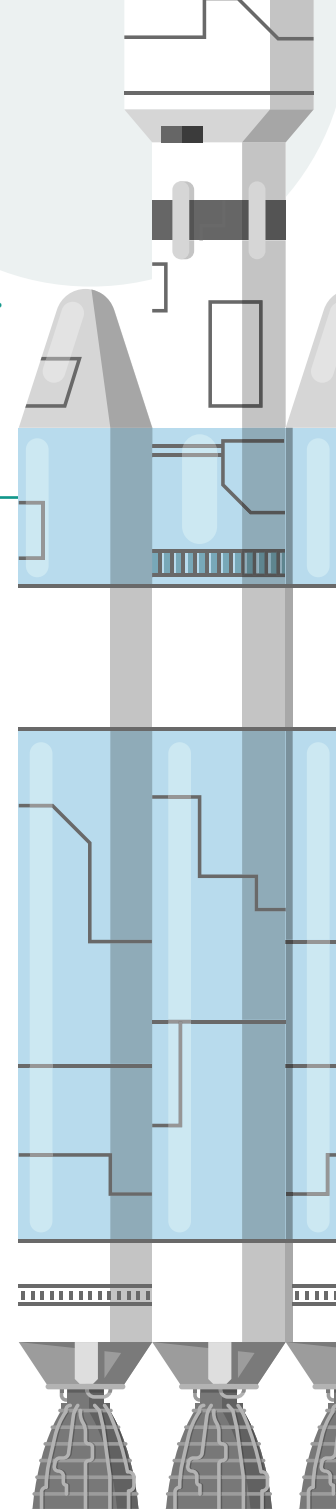


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Did you know? If you earn £30,000 you only pay £37 a month of your loan back



If you are interested in:



Biology

Careers You Might Like:

- Beauty Therapist
- Biotechnologist
- Chiropractor
- Dental Hygienist
- Doctor
- Environmental Education Officer
- Environmental Health Officer
- Environmental Scientist
- Forester
- Health Care Assistant
- Horticulture
- Laboratory Technician
- Marine Biologist/Zoologist
- Microbiologist
- Nursing
- Nutritionist/Dietician
- Occupational Therapist
- Teacher (Primary or Secondary)
- Vet Nursing
- Zoo keeper

Physics

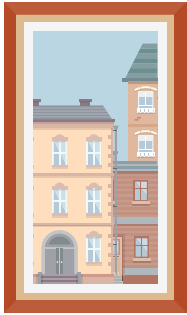
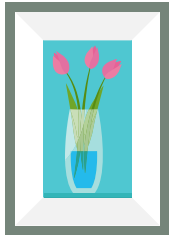
Careers You Might Like:

- Astronomer
- Building Technician
- Civil Engineer
- Computer Programmer
- Domestic Appliance Engineer
- Electrical and Electronic Engineer
- Electrician
- Geophysicist
- Laboratory Technician
- Materials Scientist
- Mechanic
- Mechanical Engineer
- Meteorologist
- Optometrist
- Orthotist/Prosthetist
- Patent Scientist
- Quantity Surveyor
- Sound Recordist

Chemistry

Careers You Might Like:

- Biochemist
- Brewing Scientist
- Chemical Engineer
- Chemical Plant Operative
- Conservator
- Food Technologist
- Forensic Scientist
- Hairdresser
- Industrial Chemist
- Laboratory Technician
- Oceanographer
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Pathologist
- Pharmaceutical Rep
- Pharmacist
- Photographer
- Physiotherapist
- Science Teacher
- Textile Technologist
- Vet



*Did you know? In 2017
the average graduate
paid just £900 of their
student loan back*



If you are interested in:

Art and Design

Careers You Might Like:

- Advertising
- Antique Dealer
- Architect
- Art Therapist
- Childcare Assistant
- Costume Designer
- Fashion/Textile Designer
- Fine Art
- Florist
- Gallery Curator
- Graphic Design
- Hairdresser
- Jewellery/ Hat Design
- Make-up Artist
- Marine Archaeologist
- Merchandiser
- Window Dresser
- Personal Stylist
- Photographer
- Potter
- Teacher
- Product Designer
- Sculptor



Physical Education

Careers You Might Like:

- Armed Forces
- Childcare Assistant
- Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- Health Promotion
- Horse Riding Instructor
- Leisure Centre Assistant/Lifeguard
- Leisure Manager
- Occupational Therapist
- Outdoor Pursuits Instructor
- Paramedic
- Stunt Performer
- P.E. Teacher
- Police or Fire Fighter
- Sports Product Designer
- Professional Sportsperson
- Public Relations
- Sports Coach
- Sports Development Officer
- Sports Journalist/Presenter
- Sports Shop Assistant



Modern Foreign Languages

Careers You Might Like:

- Air Cabin Crew
- Banking
- Bilingual Secretary
- Customs and Excise Officer
- Diplomatic Service Careers
- Engineering
- Holiday Rep/Tour Guide
- Hotel Manager
- Immigration Officer
- Import and Export Business
- Industrial Buyer
- Interpreter
- International Student Recruitment Officer
- Sales and Marketing
- Social Worker
- Teaching
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Tourist Information Officer
- Translator
- Working for multi-national companies





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Did you know? There are over 100,000 degree courses at over 700 Universities or Colleges



If you are interested in:

Religious Education

Careers You Might Like:

- Charity Fundraiser
- Civil Servant
- Teacher
- Conference Organiser
- Diplomat
- District Nurse
- Doctor
- Health Promotion
- Hotel/Restaurant Manager
- Immigration Officer
- Import and Export Agent
- International Relations Officer
- Market Research
- Religious Publisher
- Social Worker
- Travel Agent/Tour Rep
- Youth and Community Worker
- Vicar/Priest/Minister/Rabbi

Media Studies

Careers You Might Like:

- Advertising
- Camera Person
- Copywriter
- Director/Producer
- Documentary Maker
- Newspaper/Book/Magazine Editor
- Floor Manager
- Freelance Journalist
- Graphic Designer
- Lighting Technician
- Make-up Artist
- Marketing Assistant
- Media Sales
- Production Assistant
- Publicist
- Researcher
- Script Writer
- Sound Recordist
- Stagehand
- Theatre/Cinema Manager
- TV/Film/Radio Presenter

Business Studies

Careers You Might Like:

- Accountancy Technician
- Bar/Club Manager
- Estate Agent
- Farmer
- Financial Adviser
- Garage Manager
- Health Service Manager
- Hotel Manager/Owner
- Personnel Officer
- Insurance Claims Assistant
- Investment Analyst
- Marketing Assistant
- Quantity Surveyor
- Retail Manager
- Transport Manager
- Trading Standards Officer





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**Did you know?
Your student loan
gets written off
after 30 years**

Performing Arts

Careers You Might Like:

Music

- Advertising
- Arts Promotion
- Choreographer
- Composer
- Conductor
- DJ
- Film Music Editor
- Music Therapist
- Musical Instrument Maker
- Musician
- Music Librarian
- Music Journalist
- Dancer
- Occupational Therapist
- Music Teacher
- Primary School Teacher
- Radio Producer
- Sound Engineer

Careers You Might Like:

Drama

- Actor
- Advertising Executive
- Arts/Film Critic
- Childcare Assistant
- Children's Entertainer
- Community Development Officer
- Director
- Drama Teacher
- Drama Therapist
- Floor/Stage Manager
- Holiday Rep
- Media Researcher
- Public Relations
- Publisher
- Script Writer
- Solicitor
- Theatre Manager
- TV Presenter

If the career you are interested in isn't listed, you can research the job further by using the websites mentioned in this guide. You should be able to identify which GCSE subjects would be useful for you to get this job in the future.

Design and Technology

If you are interested in:

Careers You Might Like:

Graphic Products

- Animator/Cartoonist
- Architect
- Building Surveyor
- Cartographer
- Graphic Designer
- Magazine Editor
- Photographer
- Product Designer
- Town Planner
- Web Designer

Resistant Materials

- Building Technician
- Furniture Maker
- Jewellery Designer
- Maintenance Fitter
- Mechanic
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Shop Fitter
- Welder
- Wood Machinist
- Carpenter/Joiner

System and Control

- Building Technician
- Furniture Maker
- Jewellery Designer
- Maintenance Fitter
- Mechanic
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Shop Fitter
- Welder
- Wood Machinist
- Carpenter/Joiner

Textiles

- Dressmaker/Hatter
- Fashion Designer
- Interior Designer
- Knitwear Designer
- Personal Stylist
- Teacher
- Quality Control Officer
- Sewing Machinist
- Textile/Fashion Buyer
- Textile Designer
- Costume Design

Food Technology/Catering

- Animal Nutritionist
- Baker
- Catering Assistant
- Chef
- Dietician
- Fitness Instructor
- Food Technologist
- Health Promotion
- Nurse
- Retail/Hotel Manager
- Food Buyer

Industrial Technology

- Aeronautical Engineer
- Aircraft Technician
- Architect
- Civil Engineer
- Industrial Designer
- Marine Architect
- Material Scientist
- Mechanical Engineer
- Patent Officer
- Production Manager
- Quality Controller
- Sculptor
- Technical Author



Next Steps

1. Talk to your parents or carers about your interests and ambitions.
2. Think about your strengths and weaknesses. What do you like doing? What are you good at?
3. Think about what kind of career you would like to be doing in the future.
4. Research all the careers you are interested in to see what they involve and the qualifications you will need.
5. Talk to your teachers and careers adviser.
6. Consider if you would prefer to study full time at Sixth Form or College after Year 11 or prefer to get a job and an Apprenticeship.
7. Look at the different courses available at your local Colleges or Sixth Forms.

Questions?

Contact our team today for free impartial advice via our website or book a call to talk to us directly at higherhorizons.co.uk/ask

Notes:



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Ask us anything | higherhorizons.co.uk/ask

