

# Choosing my GCSE's



How to choose my option subjects

- Select subjects which you enjoy studying.
- Select subjects which you have been successful in.
- Attend the *Options Evening*
- Ask your parents and teachers for advice. Find out everything you need to know including examination/ coursework information.
- <http://growingambitions.tes.co.uk/jobs/m> - an A-Z of careers and career entry requirements

## GCSE's and how they relate to potential careers: an overview

This gives an overview of some of the most popular subjects you can take during Years 10 and 11, and describes how they relate to potential careers. However, remember that your education isn't just about preparing you for work.

**English**, careers that may interest you if you particularly enjoy English include Journalism, Publishing, Teaching English, Legal work, Public Relations, Advertising, Translating and Interpreting Work.

**Maths**, if you have a particular interest in Maths, you could consider careers in Engineering, Financial services, Teaching Maths, Statistician, Economics or Quantity Surveying.

**Science**, many jobs require an understanding of Science – Engineering, Healthcare (Nurse, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Dentist, Pharmacist), Environmental work, Architecture, Construction, and Software Engineer.

**Design and Technology**, are relevant subject for many different careers: Engineering, Industrial Design and Architecture. Food technology can provide a good background for work in Catering, day and residential care, Health services and so on. However, note that to become a dietician or food scientist, it's important to do well in science.

**Humanities**, History provides a good background for all arts and social science careers. It is useful for careers in Archaeology, Heritage, Archive and Museum work. The skills you learn from studying history include investigating, researching documents, examining evidence and presenting arguments. These are valuable in a great number of careers, including Law, Journalism, Politics and Management.

**Geography** can provide a useful background for careers and courses in areas such as exporting and importing, Travel and Tourism, Logistics, Planning, Land Management, Surveying, Geology and Conservation.

**RS** is about understanding people's cultural background and beliefs, and about morals and values. It provides a background for courses and careers in the arts and social sciences, as well as Social and Caring work, Health work and jobs in the community, such as Youth work and Community work.

**Art and Design**, this GCSE is important for anyone wishing to study the subject after year 11, or who is aiming for a career in art and design – Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Fashion Design, Photography, and Three-Dimensional Design (Furniture, Jewellery, Exhibitions etc). Architecture, Industrial Design, Floristry, Make-up work and Beauty Therapy all need an understanding of design and visual effect.

**Modern Foreign Languages**, being able to communicate in a Modern Foreign Language is increasingly useful for careers in Travel and Tourism Industry, Technology and Engineering, as well as many aspects of Business (Translator and Interpreter) and Care.

**Physical Education**, useful if you are interested in Teaching or Coaching, Sport Science, Sport Development work, Sports Journalism and so on.

**Business studies**, useful if you are considering working in, for example, Management, Sales, Human Resources or in any Commercial Organisation.

**Information and Communication Technology**, ICT skills are important for all career areas, it is not essential to gain a GCSE or A level in the subject to enter a career related to ICT.

**Drama, Dance, or Performing Arts** GCSEs are not required for entry to any particular careers, but studying them can help to develop your self-confidence and the ability to express yourself in both spoken and body language.

### **What next?**

Get advice from the people who know you best, e.g. your tutor, subject teachers, parents/carer or your school careers adviser.