



Choices Year 11 and Beyond



Making a choice about your future can seem like a difficult decision. It's ok not to know what you want to do as a career. There are choices at each stage of education with flexibility. Therefore, whatever you choose you are not stuck on any one path.

Remember it is your choice.



After your GCSEs in Year 11 you might:

- Continue your education either at sixth form or college through studying A Levels, BTECs, or another course.
- Or learn through an Apprenticeship or other work-based learning programme to gain vocational qualifications.

What level of course or apprenticeship you get into depends on your GCSE grades.

Each level of study leads to another. If you start on a level 2 qualification you can move up to a level 3 qualification after completion.

Exploring this in practice



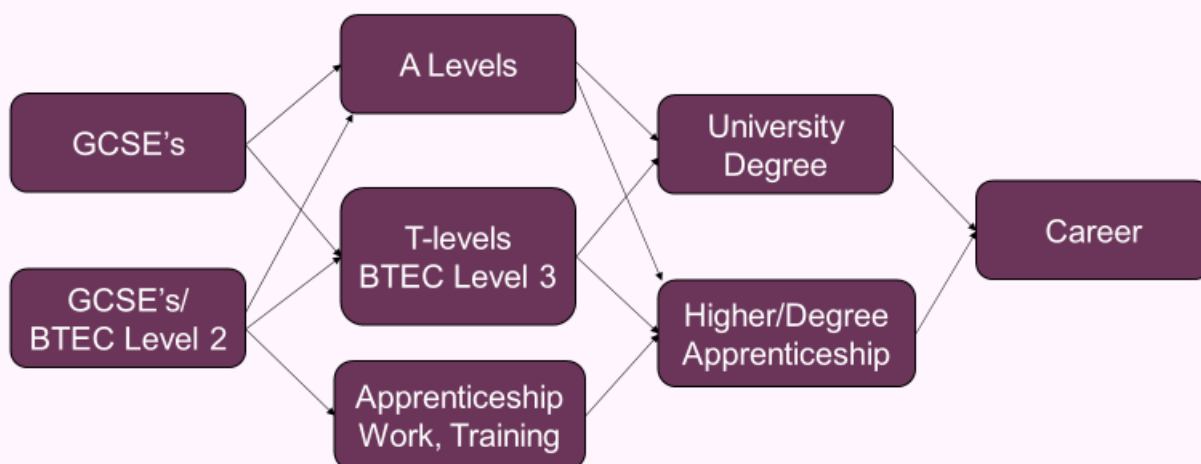
*There may be other qualifications available to you not listed above.



- The UK education system states that achieving a GCSE grade 4 and above in both **Maths and English** helps students to progress to further study, training and skilled employment.
- Colleges and schools are required to ensure students resit their English and Maths qualifications if they have not yet achieved a grade 4 already. This includes students studying on apprenticeships. This is a legal requirement.

The different qualification pathways are flexible. Whatever your starting point, there are many routes through to a career you want.

Flexible Education Pathways



How to choose a T-level or BTEC subject?

- Consider what subjects you enjoy as T-levels and BTECs are related to specific careers.
- They are assessed through a variety of internal and external assessment methods.
- The learning will often combine both practical content with specific theory. They may be studied alongside an A-Level.
- Consider where you want to study. Some schools may run T-levels and BTEC courses, but colleges often have the widest range of choices and may link with local employers.

What's the difference between qualifications?

The A-Level path involves studying 3 separate subjects where as T-level and BTEC pathways involve studying one subject area in greater depth.

T-levels and BTEC qualifications may offer more practical content, though this may also be common of some A-levels. T-levels and BTEC formal assessment typically spans across the year as units are completed through coursework, practical assessment and written exams. **Both paths will involve theory and written exams.**

Apprenticeships offer a real job, hands on experience, a salary and the chance to train while you work.

Each pathway can provide a route into university and higher education.



When deciding on A-levels there are several things to keep in mind:

- A-Levels are a higher level of work than GCSEs – be prepared!
- Think carefully about which subjects you choose. Look at what you enjoy, are interested in and are good at. Make sure they are YOUR choice.
- A-Levels are an established qualification offered by schools and colleges for students aged 16-19.
- Most pupils choose 3 subjects to study through to Year 13.

- What are you good at? **Play to your strengths.**
- What do you enjoy? **We work harder at things we enjoy.**
- What might you want to do **until** you are 18? **2 further years of study.**
- What might you want to do **after** you're 18? **Careers you might like.**

You do not usually need to have studied a subject at GCSE in order to study it at A-level. Here are some exceptions:

Deciding on A-levels...

| <u>GCSE Subjects</u> | | <u>A-level Subjects</u> |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Sciences | ➔ | Science A-level |
| Art | | Art A-level |
| Music | | Music A-level |
| Languages | | Language A-level |
| Maths | | Maths A-level |

There are resources at school and online which could help you with these decisions. Talk to your teachers if you are unsure, they have the experience and knowledge to help inform your choices.

If you are considering university the same principle applies when deciding on a degree subject. You may not need to have studied the subject at A-level in order to study it at university. Consider what you like and are good at. Also look on www.ucas.com for other subject options. You may find something you never thought of before. For some degree subjects there are A-level and BTEC subject requirements, but not for all. Here are some subject requirements for degrees:

Deciding on a Degree

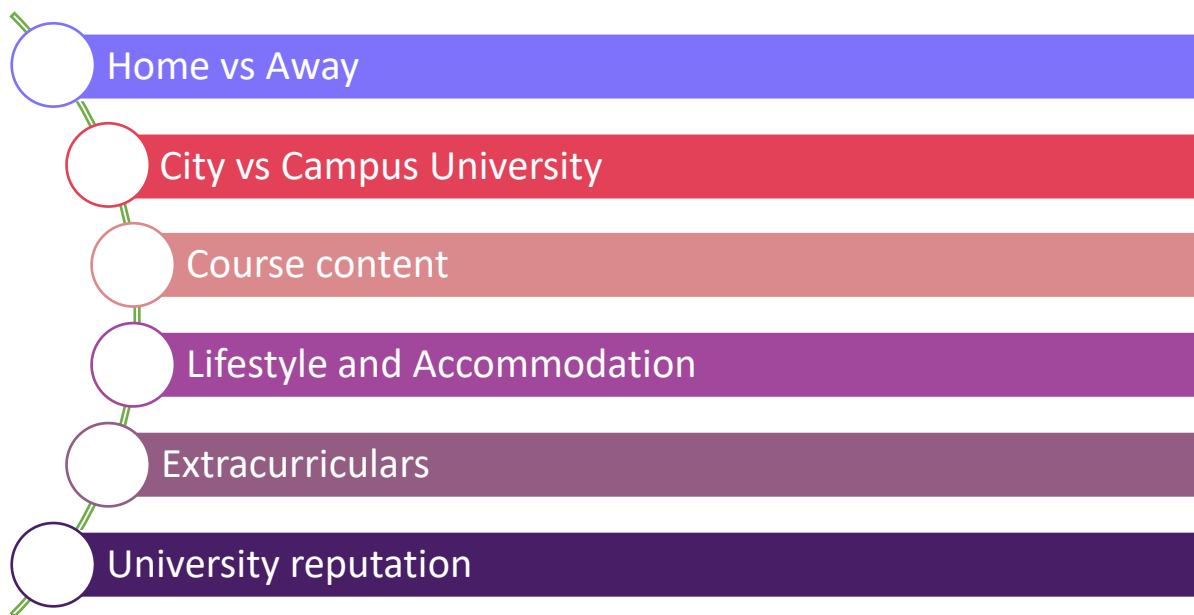
| <u>A-level Subjects</u> | | <u>Degree Subjects</u> |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sciences | ➔ | Science degree |
| Sciences | | Medical degrees |
| Physics/Maths | ➔ | Engineering/IT/Economics |
| Art | | Art/Design |
| Music | | Music |
| History | ➔ | History |
| Geography/Science | | Geography |
| English | | English |

Look on university websites, UCAS.com, which.co.uk/aleveexplorer

Research!

- Once you have a list of possible subjects to study look on university websites.
- Find out more about the degrees by looking at the modules on offer and how they relate to career options.
- Consider what matters to you when choosing a university.

Things to consider when choosing universities:



Depending on the university you choose there may be preferred subjects. Some of the most competitive universities have a preference for facilitating subjects at A-level.

What Some Universities Prefer

Facilitating Subjects at A-level

- Regardless of degree subject. Choose 1 or 2 of these to keep your options open.

-Biology

-Chemistry

-English

-Geography

-History

-Maths

-Languages

-Physics

Some competitive universities prefer facilitating subjects and discourage certain subject combinations. Example – Business and Economics. Always check by looking up on the individual university websites or <https://www.ucas.com/>



Regardless of what subjects you take at A-level there are many degree subjects that do **not** need specific A-level subjects. Here are some degree subjects that will accept any A-level subject. However always check with individual universities or on UCAS.com.

What can A-levels lead to?

A-level



A-level



A-level



Accountancy, anthropology, archaeology, business studies, classical civilisations, hospitality, information science, law, management, marketing, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology, public relations, religious studies, retail management, social work, sociology, surveying, travel and tourism



University isn't for everyone, but if you are planning to study a degree here are some of the advantages of having a degree:

- More chances of getting work - unemployment rate is much lower for those with a degree.
- Transferrable skills - research, presentations, projects, entrepreneurship, time management...
- Employment contacts by meeting leaders of tomorrow.
- Some employers recruit through universities - Jobs Fairs.
- Some careers require a degree.

There are careers you can get into by just having a degree, regardless of the subject. For example, a degree in geography doesn't have to lead to a career in geography.



Here are just some of the careers you can access with a degree in any subject:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Accountancy | Advertising | Public relations |
| Marketing | Construction | Hospitality and Travel Management |
| Human Resources | Investment Banking | IT |
| Publishing and Media | Retail Banking and Insurance | Sales |

Remember it is all about you... The common goal of ***all*** pathways is successful employment starting out in a career you'll enjoy.

Ask for support and guidance from your teachers, parents/ carers and advisors.

There is also a lot of information online. Here are some useful websites:

<https://aspire-higher.co.uk/>

<https://www.careersbox.co.uk/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

<https://www.ucas.com/>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/>

<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

<https://www.ukcoursefinder.com/>

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