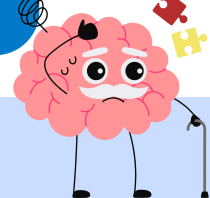




# How to Choose GCSE Options



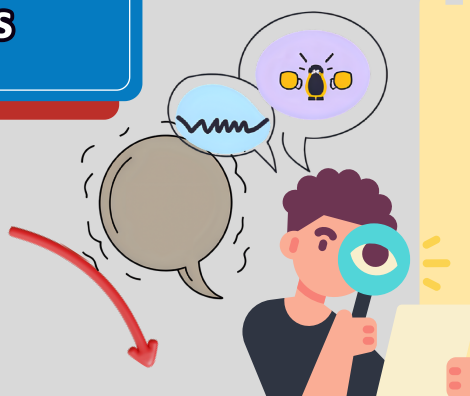
## What are GCSEs?

- A GCSE is a General Certificate of Secondary Education. It is an academic qualification and is the main qualification that you will undertake in key stage 4 (usually year 10 and year 11).
- A GCSE normally takes two years to complete and you take the final exams in Year 11.
- GCSEs give you a **good foundation set of skills and knowledge** and are important stepping stones if you want to get a job or continue studying.
- Many employers and colleges ask for candidates to have at least 5 GCSEs (grade 4 or above).
- You would normally pick 3-4 subjects alongside your core subjects, they could be a mixture of GCSEs and Vocational qualifications.

## Planning my way forwards

### 1. Thinking about me

- What **subjects** do I enjoy?
- How do I like to learn?
- What subjects am I good at?
- What are **my skills** and **personal qualities**?

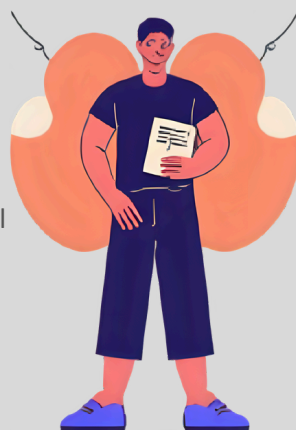


Which GCSEs are compulsory?

English  
Maths  
Science

### 4. Taking action

- If you are interested in an apprenticeship, you can open up as an option.
- There's not an 'easy' subject, all courses are designed to challenge you, you shall be guided by your **interest and passion** for a subject.



### 2. Researching my options

- **Where** could a particular subject take me?
- Do the GCSE choices I am making **affect my college choices**?



Where to look for information?

- 🔍 Career website eg. Careerpilot
- 🔍 Website e.g. National Careers Service
- 🔍 Library resources, college prospectus
- 🔍 Ask in-school Careers Practitioner
- 🔍 Talk to teachers, and people you trust

### 3. Making plans

- You can plan out a possible route through the **different qualification level**.
- If you are not sure what you want to do after Year 11 don't be concerned.
- You can take reassurance from the fact that **the most important subjects such as English, maths and science are core subjects** and to **keep your options open** you could choose facilitating subjects (i.e., subjects that help you keep your options open) such as geography or languages to support a wide set of skills and learning.

