



POST-16 CHOICES

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YOUR EDUCATION

A marathon or a sprint?



Answer: A journey

OPTIONS

You must stay in some form of education or training until your 18th birthday if you were born on or after 1 September 1997.

You have three options:

- An apprenticeship or traineeship
- Part-time education or training as well as being employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week
- Full-time education
 - school or college?
 - academic or vocational?



APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships

You are employed by a company and usually spend four days a week on skills development at the company and one day a week at college developing your subject knowledge and technical skills (including English and maths).



SCHOOL?

- Usually five days a week
- Gaining knowledge
- Mainly exam based at the end of an academic year
- 16-18 year olds
- Teachers know you and you don't have to leave your friendship group
- You will have to continue studying English and maths if you do not already have a grade C or above at GCSE

COLLEGE?

- Study Programmes 560-600 hours of learning some on-line
- Usually a combination of classroom, project based, digital and placement learning.
- Gaining knowledge and skills
- Continuous assessment with some exams
- Students range from 14 years old to adults
- Teacher/student relationship less formal – treated as an adult
- You will have to continue studying English and maths if you do not already have a grade C or above at GCSE

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- Vocational qualifications e.g. BTEC - knowledge and skills
- Study at various levels
- Level 1 pre GCSE
- Level 2 equivalent to 4 GCSEs A*-C
- Level 3 equivalent to 3 A-Levels = Grades Pass, Merit, Distinction

Progression to University.

D,D, D = 360 UCAS points

D, D, M = 320 UCAS points

D, M, M = 280 UCAS points

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES


Edexcel

“Over 100,000 BTEC students apply to university every year”

Laura Kishore, Head of Admissions at Oxford Brookes University

“all our courses are open to students with BTECs”

a Level 3 BTEC will get you onto a related course at university

Level 3 BTEC Business  Business, Marketing, Accounting
NOT English Literature, History, Physics

Level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care  Social Work, Nursing,
Midwifery

TO FIND OUT MORE

Go to school and college open days

Useful websites

www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide

www.gov.uk/find-traineeship



CHOOSING A-LEVELS

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the planned changes to A-levels?
- What are 'facilitating subjects'?
- Are A-levels still the best option for most students?
- Where can you find out more?

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO A-LEVELS?

Current A-levels

- Divided into two, one-year courses (AS & A2)
- Re-sit opportunities
- Assessment by exam and coursework
- All subjects of 'equal value'

New A-levels

- A two-year course (no one-year qualification)
- No re-sit opportunities
- Assessment by exam only
- Introduction of 'facilitating subjects'

New A-Levels begin in September 2015

WHAT ARE FACILITATING SUBJECTS?

The Russell Group (24 top UK universities) have joined together to agree a list which identifies their preferred subjects – those which will be most useful in gaining entrance to university:

- English literature
- Languages
- Geography
- History
- Maths and further maths
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology

ARE A-LEVELS STILL THE BEST OPTION FOR MOST STUDENTS?

- For students achieving mostly A*- B at GCSE whose strengths lie in the so-called 'facilitating subjects' - **yes**
- For students who thrive in examinations - **yes**
- For students achieving mostly B–C grades who are principally interested in 'new subjects' - **no**
- For students who aren't particularly strong in examinations - **no**

TO FIND OUT MORE

The Russell Group universities have grouped subjects in a booklet called *Informed Choices*:

<http://issuu.com/russellgroup/docs/informedchoices-latest>

Many universities produce their own lists of preferred subject combinations. Look online at the universities that interest you. For example:

Trinity College Cambridge:

<http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/index.php?pageid=604>

University of Sheffield:

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/policies/alevel>