



# POST-16 CHOICES

ROSE TURNER

FRANCIS LAWSON

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# YOUR EDUCATION

## A marathon or a sprint?



**Answer: A journey**

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# OPTIONS

You must stay in some form of education or training until your 18<sup>th</sup> 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?



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# 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).



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# TRAINEESHIPS AND SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

## Traineeships

You know what vocational area you want an apprenticeship in e.g. carpentry, engineering, business administration, etc.

You need help to develop your employability skills including English and maths.

You will spend six weeks to six months at work placements and college.

## Supported Internships

A structured programme for 16-24 year olds with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who have a statement of special educational needs and who want to move into employment and need extra support to do so.



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# 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?

- Usually two, three or four days at college and one to two days at work placement
- 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

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# ACADEMIC OR VOCATIONAL?

- 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

D,D, D = 360 UCAS points

D, D, M = 320 UCAS points

D, M, M = 280 UCAS points

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# 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



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## TO FIND OUT MORE

Go to school and college open days

Useful websites

[www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide](http://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide)

[www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)



# CHOOSING A-LEVELS

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# 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?

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# 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**

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# 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

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# 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**

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# 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>

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# Extract from the University of Sheffield

[A-level Subjects Acceptable in Combination](#) Some of our courses only consider these subjects for entry where they are offered with one or two A-levels from the list of acceptable A-Level subjects above.

A-E

Applied Art and Design

**Applied Business**

Applied Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Applied Science

**Art and Design**

Communication and Culture

Creative Writing

Critical Thinking

**Dance**

Design and Technology (+ Home Economics)

Electronics

**Engineering**

F-U

**Film Studies**

General Studies\*\*

**Health and Social Care**

**Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Leisure Studies

**Media Studies**

Music Technology

**Performing Arts/Drama**

**Physical Education**

**Travel and Tourism**

Use of Maths