



**Next Steps
South West**

GCSE OPTIONS

It's time to start making some important decisions by narrowing down some of the subject areas studied.



Part of the
**National Collaborative
Outreach Programme**



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At some point in secondary school, students will need to choose their GCSE options. This can seem scary at first, but this is an opportunity for students to begin narrowing their interests.

What are they and why do they matter?

GCSEs are the qualifications taken by 15/16 year olds to mark graduation from the Key Stage 4 phase of secondary education. GCSEs are one of the most important exams a student will take before college or university. Many Level 3 courses require a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, and some demand five at grade 6.

Are any GCSE subjects compulsory?

Although students get to choose most of their GCSE options, there are some subjects that are mandatory. These are known as core GCSE subjects and include:

- Maths
- English Language
- English Literature
- Sciences (either single, double or triple science)

What happens next?

Students can choose to stay at school to study Level 3 qualifications. Alternatively, students can move on to a college to study. Apprenticeships are now a popular option, combined work-based and theoretical learning whilst gaining a further education qualification.



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