



GCSE Options

It's time to start making some important decisions by narrowing down the subject areas you want to study.



**Next Steps
South West**

GCSE Options

Choosing GCSE options can seem intimidating, but you could see it as a step towards what you are interested in.

What are they and why do they matter?

GCSEs are the qualifications taken by 15/16 year olds to mark graduation from 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 subject 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, combining work-based and theoretical learning whilst gaining a further education qualification.



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