

Choosing a HE Course KS5 – Worksheet

When choosing a university and course there's a lot to think about. You may feel confident that you know what you want to do, but do you take some time to work through these activities?

No one else can tell you what decision to make; it is entirely up to you. This resource asks you a series of questions to help you think about your decisions and the reasons behind them.

Be honest with yourself – this is about your future.



ACTIVITY 1: What courses are you thinking of applying for?

Course	University



ACTIVITY 2: Which are your top 2 courses at which universities?

Course	University

 **ACTIVITY 4: Courses I am considering...**

Complete the table below using the example provided to help you with your decision-making process.

- Under 'courses I am considering' write down the choices you have made so far.
- Under 'decision making criteria' list the decision-making criteria you marked as important to you in questions 3 above.
- Now give each university a mark out of five, with five being high and one being low.

	Courses I am Considering				
Decision Making Process	Math at Uni A	Math and Statistics at Uni B	Math at Uni C	Physics and Math at Uni D	Physics and Space at Uni E
Location	5	1	3	5	2

	Courses I am Considering				
Decision Making Process					
Total					



ACTIVITY 5: Reflect

Is the course and university with the highest score in question 4 the same as the course and university you stated as your favourite in question 2?

If not, consider why your favourite course and university did not have the highest score. Will this affect your decision on where to apply?



ACTIVITY 6: SMART Action Planning

After using the decision-making framework you will have a clearer idea of what you want to do. Use our example action plan to help put your decision into practice.

What is a SMART Action Plan?

- S** Be **Specific** about what you want to achieve. Do not be ambiguous and communicate clearly.
- M** Ensure your result is **Measurable**. Have a clearly defined outcome that you can measure.
- A** Make sure it is an **Achievable** outcome.
- R** Check it is **Realistic**. It must be possible when taking account of time, ability and money.
- T** Make sure it is **Time-restricted**. Set yourself an achievable timeframe, deadlines and milestones to check your progress.

Example SMART Action Plan

Objective	Tasks	Help Needed	Potential Barriers	Evidence of Achievement	Completion or Review Date
I want to study a joint honours degree in French and politics but do not know where to study it	Research the universities that offer French and politics	Use UCAS, Uni league tables, Go compare and individual university websites	Not enough time to do this research at the same time as A-level study	A list of universities that offer French and politics	3 rd June
I want to study a joint honours degree in French and politics but do not know where to study it	Find out which universities I would like to go to	Attend open days and speak to current students	No open days coming up. Don't know any current students at university	A list of 5 universities I would like to attend. A list of decision-making criteria that is important to me	15 th September

Choosing a HE Course KS5- SMART Action Plan

Student Name:

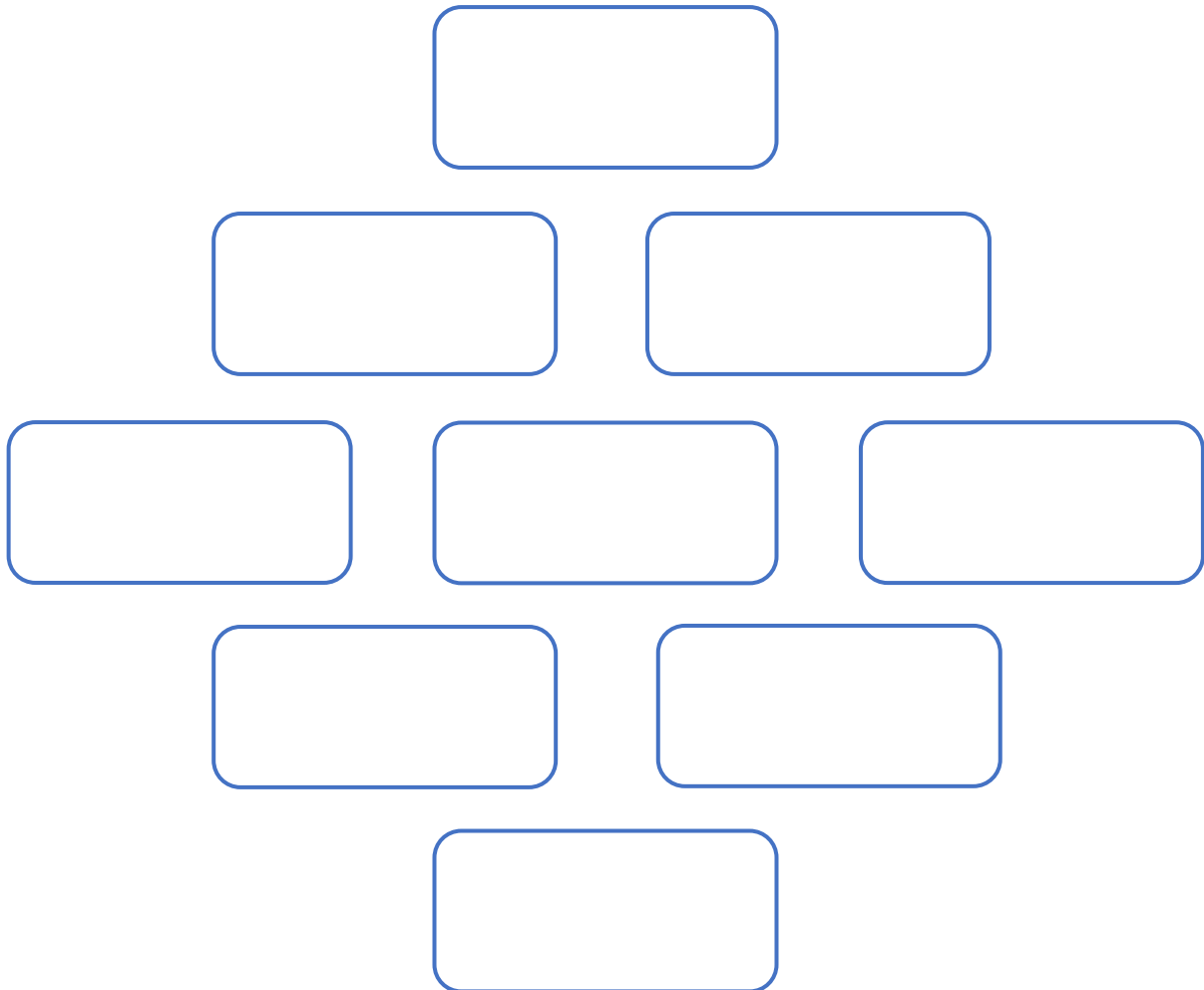
Tutor Group:

Referring to the example SMART Action Plan, use the table below to create your own action plan.
Make sure you review these moving forward in your decision-making!

Objective	Tasks	Help Needed	Potential Barriers	Evidence of Achievement	Completion or Review Date

Diamond Nine Ranking Activity

Most Important



A diamond-shaped grid of nine rounded rectangular boxes for ranking criteria. The boxes are arranged in a diamond pattern: one box at the top, two boxes in the second row, three boxes in the third row, two boxes in the fourth row, and one box at the bottom.

Least Important

Rank the following criteria from most important to least important using the grid above.

- subject
- location
- entry requirements
- course content and assessment style
- teaching methods
- course length and study hours
- provider reputation
- extracurricular opportunities
- career progression