

Next Steps: Making Good Choices

Activities and advice
for GCSE options

WHY DO MY GCSE CHOICES MATTER?



- > Flip a coin. Close your eyes and point at random. Pull a subject out of a hat. Wait for a sign from the universe... People have developed all kinds of ways to cope with the challenge of making choices. And they work. Toss a coin and read heads or tails, and you've got an answer. Even waiting for a sign from the universe is a choice – a choice to not make a choice. There's just one problem. Are these good choices?

Making good choices is harder than making any old decision. We're not going to sugar-coat that reality. But making good choices is better than settling for a random selection. Why do we say that?

- You learn more about yourself through the process.
- You get to take control of your future and your learning.
- You are more likely to end up with a satisfying and fulfilling experience.

Read on for activities, tips and information about how to make good GCSE choices.



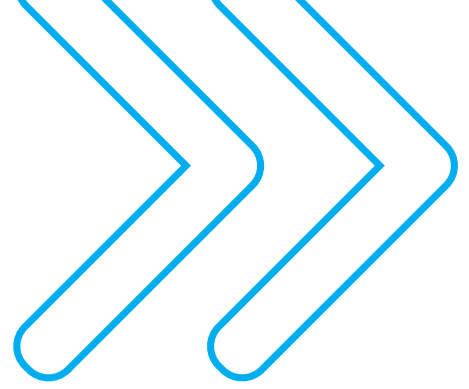
WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS BOOKLET:



- > **WHICH GCSES?**
- > **WHERE CAN MY GCSES TAKE ME?**
- > **WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?**
- > **WHAT TYPE OF JOB?**
- > **FUTURE PLANNING PYRAMID.**
- > **CAPTURE YOUR IDEAS.**

Why are GCSEs important? Write down as many reasons you can think of in this box. Keep coming back to it for inspiration and motivation when choosing.

WHICH GCSES SHOULD I CHOOSE?



A good first step is to find out what's possible at your school.

Which GCSEs are compulsory at your school? These are the subjects that everyone has to do. Write them down here.

Which subjects do you enjoy studying?

(Don't pick subjects just because you like the teacher or your friend thinks it's great!)

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

If you have ideas about the type of job you want in the future, write them here. But if you're not sure, it's fine to skip this step.

Three GCSEs that you think might be useful in these jobs:



➤ Hopefully by thinking through these questions, you will have started to narrow down your choices and what the best options for you might be.

It's unlikely that you'll know exactly what you want to do with your future, so it's important to keep options open. If you love the arts, consider balancing your subjects with a subject like history or a language alongside creative courses. The reason for balance is not to please teachers or parents, it's just a way of keeping your options open. As your school career progresses you may find you have gifts you never dreamed of. Try to not shut too many doors too soon.

WHERE CAN MY GCSEs TAKE ME?



This activity goes with our assembly - can you remember some of the jobs and GCSEs we talked about? Or can you think of your own?

1 IT AND THE INTERNET

The world of Information Technology is one of the fastest growing job sectors. Many of the jobs that exist today did not exist 10 years ago.

Write down three jobs related to IT and the internet:

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Write down three GCSEs that you think might be useful for these jobs:

--	--	--

2 SPORTS AND FITNESS

Sport and fitness has become a huge part of our lives and that means there are lots of jobs in this sector.

Write down three jobs related to Sport and Fitness:

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Write down three GCSEs that you think might be useful for these jobs:

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3 PERFORMANCE ARTS

You don't have to be the next Hollywood star to find in a job in the performing arts. Think about the last film you watched. Who designed the costumes? What technical skills were needed to record the sound and arrange the soundtrack? Who planned out the dance routines and trained the performers? Who arranged the special effects and edited the footage of the film after it had been shot?

Write down three jobs related to Performing Arts:

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Write down three GCSEs that you think might be useful for these jobs:

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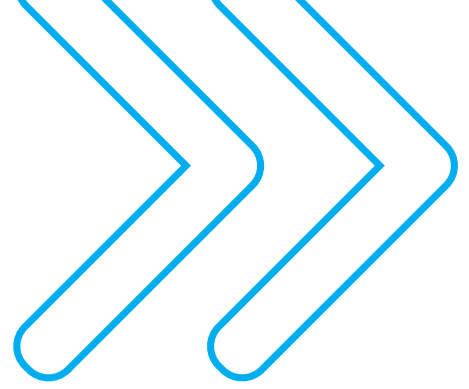
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!



Complete our short true/false quiz to see how much you've learnt during the presentation.

	TRUE	FALSE
You need to study a Law course to become a Lawyer.	☐	☐
All GCSEs have the same value.	☐	☐
I should consider my GCSE choices to keep my future options as open as possible.	☐	☐
I should pick the subjects my friends are doing.	☐	☐
Universities and other higher education routes care about your GCSE results.	☐	☐

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?



Complete our 'What type of job?' quiz on the next page.



Make a list of your top choices. Write down any pro's and con's you can think of for each one.



Watch our [video](#) of some older students talking about their paths to university and how they selected their GCSEs.



Do some research about careers and qualifications - you may find the links on the Future Planning Pyramid helpful.



Talk to your teachers and parents/carers about the topics we've covered today. Listen to their advice but in the end it is your decision to make.



WHAT TYPE OF JOB WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

- > When you are thinking about your GCSE options it can be helpful to think about what job you would like to do in the future. Then you can research which GCSEs might help you get there.

We don't expect you to have made a final decision about what you want to do in the future, but it's helpful to start thinking about career options at this stage.



THE QUIZ BELOW WILL HELP YOU GET STARTED:



Make an inventory of your interests. Tick all the activities or career fields that interest you, whether you know much about them or not.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 01. Work on a farm or help save a rainforest | ☐ 22. Get involved in a charity/community organisation |
| ☐ 02. Solve a complicated maths problem | ☐ 23. Do fast-paced, high pressure sales work |
| ☐ 03. Act in a film or play | ☐ 24. Design computer games and programmes |
| ☐ 04. Study social groups in society | ☐ 25. Work outside in a National Park |
| ☐ 05. Interview strangers for TV news | ☐ 26. Research a law case |
| ☐ 06. Learn about and study the economy | ☐ 27. Play a musical instrument |
| ☐ 07. Study "how-to" mechanics manuals | ☐ 28. Work with babies or children |
| ☐ 08. Perform science lab experiments | ☐ 29. Run for school council |
| ☐ 09. Manage an art gallery | ☐ 30. Work after school to save money |
| ☐ 10. Conduct a religious service | ☐ 31. Set up a stereo system |
| ☐ 11. Negotiate a bargain at an antiques fair | ☐ 32. Read science fiction |
| ☐ 12. Write up graphs of charts with statistics | ☐ 33. Write a short story, play or novel |
| ☐ 13. Build cabinets or furniture | ☐ 34. Entertain at a party |
| ☐ 14. Study nature or trace the effects of pollution on the environment | ☐ 35. Work for the police |
| ☐ 15. Write a film screenplay | ☐ 36. Type documents into computers |
| ☐ 16. Lead a scout or guide group | ☐ 37. Build a jet aircraft |
| ☐ 17. Buy merchandise for a store | ☐ 38. Use an electric microscope or a high-tech medical instrument |
| ☐ 18. Work nine to five in a corporate office | ☐ 39. Design a line of clothes |
| ☐ 19. Operate heavy machinery | ☐ 40. Read and discuss literature |
| ☐ 20. Play chess | ☐ 41. Debate political and social issues on TV |
| ☐ 21. Work on art or music magazine | ☐ 42. Keep accurate records of a business |

Below, tick every number that you checked off.
For example if you ticked “Work on a farm” tick number 1

A	01	07	13	19	25	31	37
B	02	08	14	20	26	32	38
C	03	09	15	21	27	33	39
D	04	10	16	22	28	34	40
E	05	11	17	23	29	35	41
F	06	12	18	24	30	36	42

Evaluate Yourself

Next, transfer your total for each line above to the proper space below.
For example, if you have ticked four items from line A, write the number 4 next to A below.

A	Doers	
B	Investigators	
C	Artists	
D	Helpers	
E	Enterprisers	
F	Detailiers	

In what two personality types did you score the highest? Write their names and read through the personality types on the next page. Do you agree with your quiz results, or are there other categories that appeal to you more?

1.

2.

QUIZ RESULTS:

DOERS

**Enjoy practical work,
working with their hands**

- Careers in construction
- Sport
- Armed and emergency services
- Fashion and beauty industry
- Careers in computing and technology

HELPERS

**Interact with people teaching
them new skills or helping them
solve personal problems**

- Careers in education and teaching
- Youth work
- Counselling and psychology
- Careers in sales
- Travel and tourism industry
- Health and caring careers
- Careers connected to food industry
- Careers in medicine

ARTISTS

Creative, innovative, imaginative

- Careers in education
- Art, drama, music
- Graphic design
- Construction
- Museum related careers
- Entertainment

ENTERPRISEISERS

**Risk takers who enjoy decision
making, selling things, leading
people and politics**

- Careers in the financial sector
- Radio and television careers
- Legal industry
- Careers in construction and estate agency
- Careers in politics
- Working with travel and tourism
- Horticulture
- Business

DETAILERS

People who collect and organise things following defined routines and procedures

- Careers in accountancy and financial sector
- Careers in health and safety
- Careers as an auditor or analyst

INVESTIGATORS

Observant and explore a wide range of ideas to solve problems

- Careers in medicine and health science
- Law
- Computer Science
- Horticulture
- Veterinary Medicine
- Education

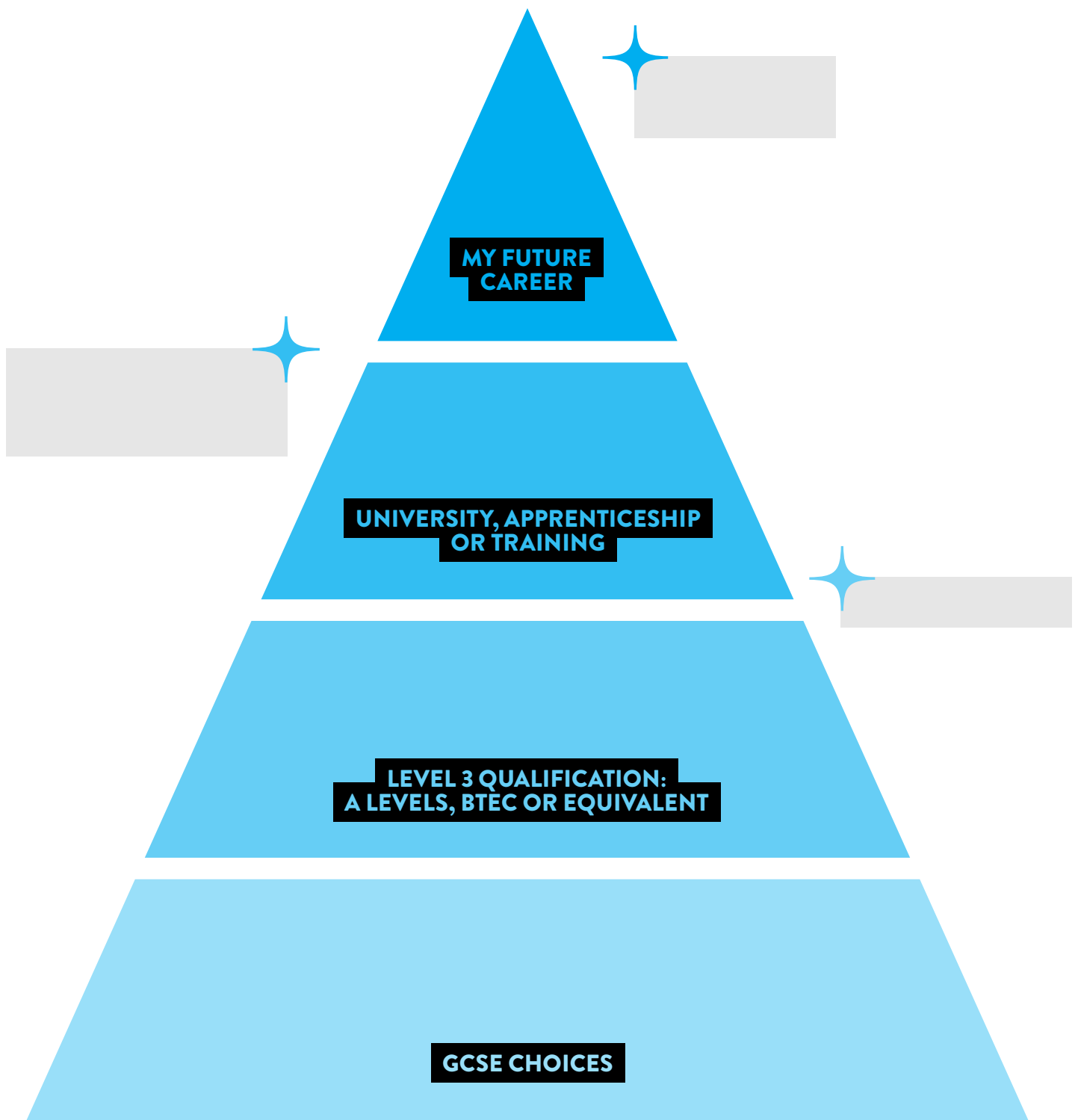


Not sure what these careers involve?
Visit [icould.com](https://www.icould.com) or [prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk) to find out more about a specific job or sector.

FUTURE PLANNING PYRAMID

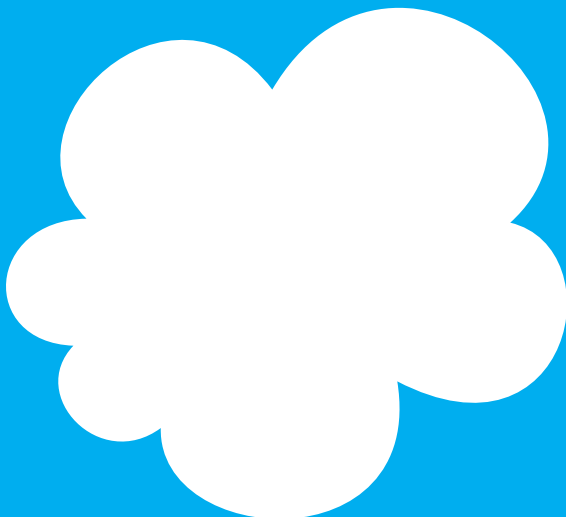
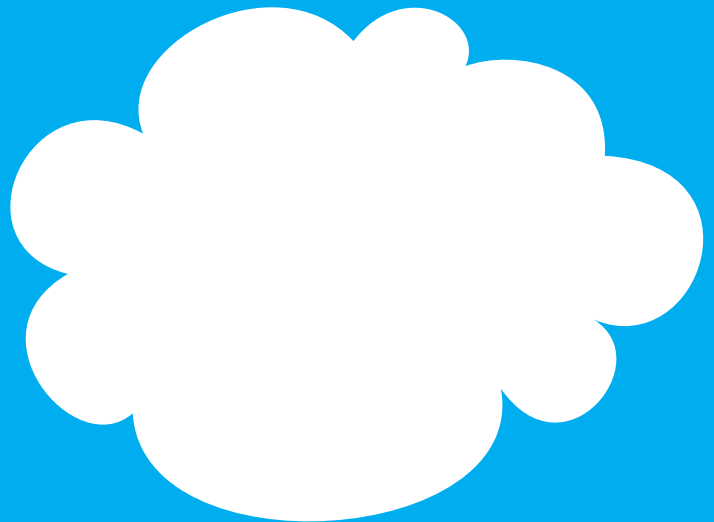
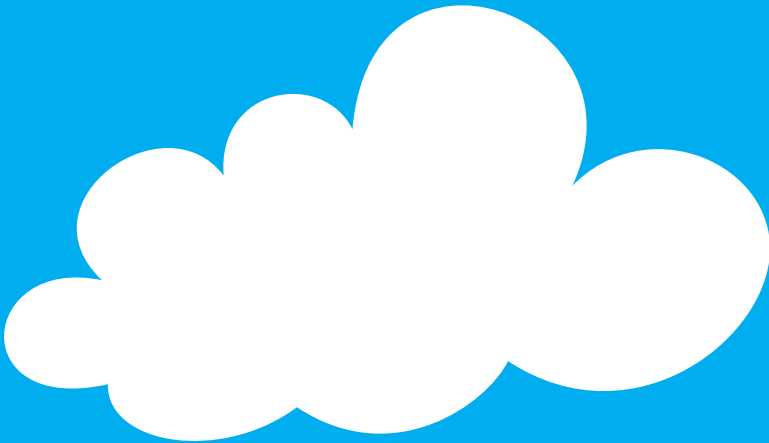
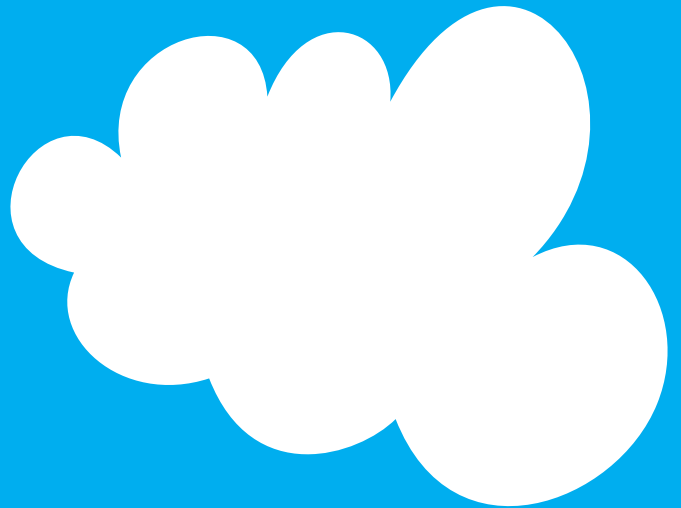
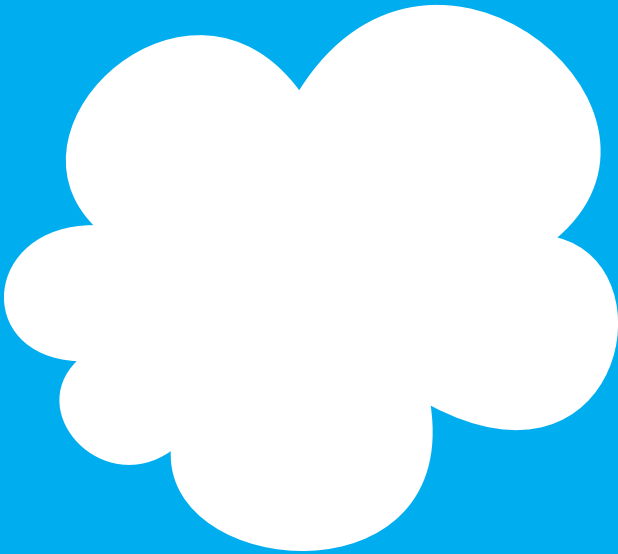
Use this template to help you consider your future goals.

Choose one career from the jobs you wrote down at the beginning of the worksheet and do some research for each of the level of the pyramid, working down to your GCSE options.



CAPTURE YOUR IDEAS

Use the bubbles to write down some of your conclusions from the activities in this booklet. You may want to include your personality type, possible jobs you're considering, subjects that will be most useful for your future, questions you still want to find answers to or decisions that you've made.



Write down notes, questions, doodles and ideas here.

