CHOOSING YOUR GCSEs / SUBJECTS

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Careers Adviser
www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers
What is on the menu today

➢ Meet your Careers Adviser
➢ Learn how to make good career decisions
➢ Find out what help is available
➢ Look at your GCSE option choices
➢ Consider where the jobs are
Meet your Careers Adviser

➢ Helps people of all ages to make decisions about their future career - education, employment and training

➢ During Year 10 assists with choosing GCSEs by providing information, advice and guidance on good career decision making
How to make good career decisions

➢ Identify the decision you need to make

➢ Find out all the options you have to choose from

➢ Use good decision making techniques to help you choose

➢ Make a back up plan (just in case)

➢ Act on your decision
NI Direct Subject Choices at Year 10

Subject choices at Year 10
The subjects you choose in Year 10 affect what you can do in the future. You should go for a good balance of subjects to keep your career options open. Choosing subjects that suit you and your abilities is very important.

Choosing subjects
Watch the video below and then take the quiz to see if you understand how best to choose your subjects.

https://youtu.be/d_ssJV_XfjQ
NI Direct Subject Choices at Year 10

Consider what sort of person you are

To help you decide what to study in Years 11 and 12, it’s a good idea to start asking yourself what sort of person you are:

• think about what you’re like at home, as well as in school – what skills you’ve developed outside school
• ask yourself what types of things you enjoy doing the most - for example, working things out and thinking them through, practical activities or artistic options like painting, drawing or performing music
• think about what you are most interested in: it could be languages, writing projects, helping people, being outdoors or designing things

What you want to do

If you have a particular career in mind, or you are hoping to go to university, then it is worth finding out if there are specific subjects you need to study.

Before choosing your GCSE subjects you should be aware of choosing subjects which may affect your choices at a later stage, for example, double award science is essential for careers related to medicine but it will also give you many other options.

To learn more about the various careers and the qualifications required why not check out the Careers A-Z below.

• Careers A-Z

You might be unsure of what you want to do yet and that’s fine. It just means you need to keep your options open when you’re choosing your subjects. To help you start matching your interests, skills and values with jobs, you could use the career matching tool Career Ideas.

• Career ideas (14 to 19 year olds)
What help is available

Talk to:

- Your Careers Teachers
- Subject teachers
- Your Year Head / Form Teacher
- Older brothers, sisters, friends - people you trust
- Your parents or guardians

- Careers Adviser
- Make sure you find out as much as you can before choosing your subjects for GCSE
- THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO MAKE A MORE INFORMED CAREER DECISION

DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT CAREER YOU ARE INTERESTED IN – MANY PUPILS IN YEAR 14 ARE UNDECIDED
Xello.co.uk – career planning, including up to date information on where the jobs are in Northern Ireland
What help is available

- Careers Library in school
- School “Options Handbook”
- College/University Prospectuses, for example
  - Queens University – www.qub.ac.uk
  - Ulster University - www.ulster.ac.uk
  - Northern Regional College – www.nrc.ac.uk
- South West College – www.swc.ac.uk
- Belfast Met College www.belfastmet.ac.uk
- Rutledge Training, Magherafelt – www.rutledgegroup.co.uk
- Websites of universities throughout the rest of the UK and Republic of Ireland
Look at your GCSE Option Choices

➢ Please be guided on this by your teachers

➢ **COMPULSORY SUBJECTS**

➢ English
➢ Mathematics
➢ RE
➢ Learning for Life & Work
➢ PE (non-exam)
➢ ICT (Band 1)
Look at your GCSE Option Choices

- Art and Design
- Business & Communication Systems
- Contemporary Crafts
- Drama
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Home Economics-Child Development
- Home Economics – H & S Care
- OCR L2 I.C.T.
- OS Design & Creativity - Hospitality
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Music
- Total Beauty(Band 2)

- Physical Education
- Single Award Science
- Double Award Science
- Sociology
- Engineering
- Construction
- OS - Business & Services, Construction, Engineering & Service, Environment & Society
Sciences beyond GCSE

Single Award Science = 1 GCSE
- **Suitable if you are sure you do not wish to continue on a science path**

Double Award Science = 2 GCSEs
- **Essential if you wish to take science further**

You will need double award for A level and usually for BTEC science related subjects

Talk to your teachers about your abilities in science
Subjects on offer in your school

➢ GCSE Art & Design/Physics A level is often preferred for many Architecture courses

➢ Physics A Level is often preferred for Aerospace Engineering, Applied Maths and Physics, Astrophysics, Theoretical Physics, Civil Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Structural Engineering with Architecture

➢ 2 languages at A Level may be useful for some careers for example Interpreter, Translator but if only have one, can still pick up a second language through a degree
Points to Consider

➢ What you’re interested in
➢ What types of activity you enjoy most
➢ What you’re like at home, as well as in school
➢ What personal qualities you have
➢ What topics does the subject cover?

➢ What type of Assessment is there
➢ Is there practical work involved
➢ How much written work is
➢ Do you perform better where there is a lot of written or practical work?
Points to Consider

➢ What grade will you achieve in the subjects you have chosen?
➢ What subjects will you need for the career / career areas you would like to pursue?

➢ CHOOSE THE SUBJECTS YOU LIKE AND ARE GOOD AT. HOPEFULLY YOU WILL ACHIEVE THE BEST PORTFOLIO OF GCSE RESULTS IN THIS WAY AND

➢ CHOOSE THE SUBJECTS WHICH YOU NEED MOST

➢ CHECK WHAT YOU MAY NEED NOW BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR GCSE SUBJECTS
She said, he said

- I’m taking French because my friend is taking it. Choose subjects you will like – friends can change!

- My sister told me to take Music - she loved it! You may be very different, pick subjects that interest you.

- I’m going to do Geography – I like my teacher. You may have a new teacher next year!

- I’d love to do Technology but worry that it’s a boys subject. There are no boy or girl only subjects.
Getting the right formula

➢ Think ahead
➢ The more research you do now…
➢ the better the decision…
➢ For your careers
➢ For university courses

➢ Look into what is required
➢ for your future plans – that is
➢ A Levels/BTECs/Apprenticeships, training or a Job

➢ Avoid making your option choices based solely on one career idea

You may change your mind!
Where the jobs are in Northern Ireland - www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers - Skills in Demand

There are job opportunities across all occupational areas in Northern Ireland but there is higher demand in occupations relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

As the world becomes increasingly technology dependent it is anticipated that the range of businesses emerging around the STEM areas will grow significantly.

This will require people to get a good education in STEM subjects.
The following areas are extremely important to the Northern Ireland economy:

- ICT
- Creative and digital media
- Agri Food Sector
- Business and Financial Services
- Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering
- Renewable Energies and Recycling
- Health and Life Sciences
In Summary:

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➢ CHOOSE THE SUBJECTS WHICH YOU NEED MOST

➢ CHECK WHAT YOU MAY NEED NOW BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR GCSE SUBJECTS
HOW DO I CONTACT A CAREERS ADVISER

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/contacts-az/careers-service

➢ **Webchat**
   Chat online with a careers adviser for advice and guidance on your careers options (Monday – Friday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm)

➢ **Ask Careers a question**
   Use the Careers Service online form to ask Careers a question

➢ **Telephone**
   Telephone: 0300 200 7820 (Monday – Friday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm)
ANY QUESTIONS?

➢ Email
E: maryjo.mcwilliams@economy-ni.gov.uk

Careers Service (HTC School Careers Advisor)
Jobs & Benefits Office
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THANK YOU