

You are here: [Education, learning and skills](#) > [Careers](#) > [Education and training](#)

## Subject choices at year 10

In Year 10 you will pick the subjects to study in Years 11 and 12. The subjects you choose may impact your choices later in life so it helps to know what qualifications are needed if you have a career in mind.

### What sort of person are you?

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 have you 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 do 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 take

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

### How do you like to learn?

Studying in Years 11 and 12 isn't just about GCSEs. Depending on what's available at your school, you may also be able to choose from work-related qualifications, diplomas, Young Apprenticeships and courses in Key Skills such as English and maths.

Subjects are taught in different ways and it may be that one teaching method suits you more than the others.

### Making choices

You'll have many options in Year 10, but there are some subjects so important that everyone has to take them.

For subjects you can choose you should:

- make sure that you have accurate and up-to-date information

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- talk to those who can give you good reliable advice such as your careers teacher/adviser
- discuss the options with your family and subject teachers

There are a number of factors you should consider when you make your subject choices.

## Choosing the subjects you need

If you know what career you want, choosing the right subjects can be critical. For example, if you are considering following a science pathway you will need at least double award science.

## Choosing the subjects you like and are good at

Nearly everyone performs better when they are doing something they enjoy and are good at. You should take this into account, but always keep in mind your preferred course or career when you leave school.

## Interests and aptitude

You may already know what you hope to do after your GCSEs. Although it may be too early to make final career decisions, you may have an idea of the broad area, which interests you, for example, clerical, active, social, practical, scientific or artistic for example. Some subjects will be more relevant to each area.

## Where can you get help and advice?

When it comes to choosing subjects and careers, you'll find there are many people ready to help you, but it's important for you to do as much as you can to check out all the options.

For help and information, speak to:

- a careers adviser from the Careers Service
- a subject teacher as they know exactly what studying a subject in Year 11 and 12 will involve and can advise you whether it's right for you
- a careers teacher as they can tell you which subjects and qualifications are suitable for certain careers
- a special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) as this is the person at your school who can arrange support if you have a disability or learning difficulty which affects your studies
- a volunteer or learning mentor who can help you to overcome the things that are getting in the way of your learning so ask if there is one at your school
- family and friends as whatever your plans it's a good idea to go over the subjects available with your parents, carers, family and friends as they probably know you best and understand your strengths and weaknesses so talking to them can help you work out what might suit your skills and interests

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