

Year Nine Guidance for Choosing Your Options



Name: _____

Class: _____

Introduction



You've reached the next stage of your education journey and it's time to choose your options for the next two years...

How will you choose what subjects to study?

How will you decide which courses are right for you?

DONT PANIC...Complete some simple quizzes to help you choose well...

- ☺ Education and training are vital to your future success. The number of jobs for poorly qualified, unskilled people are shrinking quickly
- ☺ Your education and training will continue until you are eighteen, which will help you to gain the knowledge, skills and qualifications you need
- ☺ Involve your parents/carers. Help them to understand what you are doing and how they can help you
- ☺ Speak to your subject teachers, or class teachers



What Subjects Can You Study?

Compulsory Subjects

You will have to continue to study:

Maths
English
Biology
PSHE/RSE (Personal Development)
PE

Choices For Year Ten

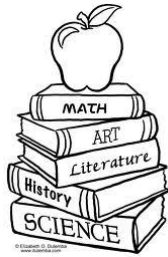
You will have to choose:

3

Options for Year Ten

Available Option Choices:

- Art And Design
- GCSE Photography
- Food
- Business
- Land Based Studies
- History
- Computing



Research Checklist

When you know exactly what your options are you can research those that interest you. Use this checklist to make sure you don't forget anything

<u>To Do</u> ✓	<u>Done</u> ✓	<u>Things To Research</u>
		Read all the options information school gives you
		Check which subjects are compulsory – The ones you have to do
		Talk to teachers to see if they think that it is a good idea for your to do their course
		Talk to your parents/carers and find out which options they think you should do and why
		Look up careers which interest you to find out which subjects, qualifications and grades you will need
		Find out what Apprenticeships could offer you after Year Eleven – see www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Learning Styles

Sometimes the way we learn affects what we are good at and what our skills are. Complete the worksheets on learning styles to find out how you learn. Do you notice any patters between your learning style and the things you are good at inside, and outside, of school?

Look at the following statements and tick your reaction in either the 'yes' or 'no' column.

		Yes	No
1	I learn a lot by listening to teachers and other people		
2	If I go somewhere I like to have directions explained to me		
3	I like discussion and learn a lot form others this way		
4	I have a good memory and don't need to take notes in lessons		
5	I easily remember words to songs		
6	When I have to spell a word I say it in my head		
7	I understand better when I have drawings or illustrations to help		
8	If I have a map I can find my way to wherever I need to go		
9	I'd rather watch someone do something first before trying it myself		
10	I learn easily from books		
11	I easily remember scenes from television shows		
12	When I spell I see the work in my mind		
13	I learn by 'having a go'		
14	I can easily assemble equipment without instructions		
15	If I take something apart I can easily put it back together again		
16	I have good physical co-ordination		
17	I'd rather play then watch a sport		
18	When I spell I write the word out		

Results

If most of your 'yes'
1- 6 you are an *auditory*

If most of your 'yes'
7-12 you are a *visual*

If most of your 'yes'
13 -18 you are a *kinaesthetic learner*



answers are in the block
learner

answers are in the block
learner

answers are in the block

What Type Of Learner Are You?

Auditory Learners



Learn best through listening to the spoken word

Visual Learners



Learn best through pictures and visual images

Kinaesthetic Learners



Learn best by physically doing things

Your score may indicate you're more than one type of learner. This isn't unusual – many people have a mix of styles.

If you had very few 'yes' responses to one of the styles it does not mean you cannot learn in that way. You might need to try a bit harder and adapt to that learning style in some situations.

For example, in Science, if you are an auditory learner you will have to work out how to help yourself learn from practical experiments. Perhaps it would help you to discuss with others in your group as you work.

Now you know your learning style, when you have to learn something, or revise, think about and try the following:

Auditory Learning:

- ◇ Reading out loud to yourself
- ◇ Discuss what it was all about
- ◇ Record it and play it back
- ◇ Talk to others at the end of the lesson to go over the important points

Visual Learners:

- ◇ Watch DVDs
- ◇ Draw up mind maps
- ◇ Sketch out new ideas and new information in picture form

Kinaesthetic Learners:

- ◇ Underline or highlight written notes
- ◇ Act out or 'walk through' instructions

Subjects And Abilities

In column one list the main subjects that you are studying at school and activities/hobbies that you do outside of school where studying is involved
e.g. playing the guitar

<u>School Subjects</u>	<u>Ability</u>	<u>Like/Dislike</u>
<u>Outside School</u>		

In column two grade your ability in each subject/activity according to:

- 1 – I’m very good at this
- 2 – I’m good at this
- 3 – I’m ‘all right’ at this
- 4 – I’m not very good at this
- 5 – I find this difficult

In the third column indicate your feelings about each subject/activity as follows:

- D – I dislike  this
- L – I quite like  this
- E – I enjoy this  lot and find it interesting
- A – I like this a  lot and find it interesting

Do you know what your preferred learning style is? If ‘yes’ is there a link between this and the subjects you have given ticks to? Is there a link between

this and the subjects you have given an ‘A’ to? How can this help you with planning your future course/career?

Subjects that will give me plenty of post-16 choices:	<u>MY QUESTIONS</u> Things I want to find out before I make my choices:
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Explore GCSE

Choose a subject that interests you from the options that the school offers:

What does this course involve?

Now use the internet and careers library to find out how this subject could help you in the future

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Assessment

Assessment is part of all courses which lead to a qualification. Knowing what to expect and how to approach it can help you choose your options and to get higher grades. You will come across three types of assessment at Key Stage Four:

Controlled Assessment

This includes research and other projects completed in school under exam/supervised conditions e.g. catering

Portfolios Of Evidence

Collecting and presenting evidence that demonstrates your knowledge and skills e.g. art and design

Examinations

Tests which take place at a set time and assess how well you understand a subject e.g. maths

Look at the options that interest you and fill in the table below:

<u>Option</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Suits Me</u>	<u>Don't Suit Me</u>

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List four things you can do to organise yourself so that you cope well with controlled assessments and portfolios of evidence:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

List three memory aids you find helpful:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List two relaxation techniques that could help you stay calm in an exam:

- 1.
- 2.

Explore Information Sources

Where and when can you access career information at school?

Who is there to help you?

What careers information in school and on www.direct.gov.uk could you use to help you choose your options?



Choosing

An Option

Are you ready to make your own decision? Or are you tempted to follow the crowd? Use these tips to help you decide...

- ∞ Research all your options before making a decision
- ∞ Don't think some classes are only for girls or only for boys
- ∞ If you have a firm career idea, choose subjects that you need for future opportunities that interest you or for further/higher education
- ∞ If you don't have a firm career idea, choose a broad spread of subjects that will give you plenty of choice after Year Eleven
- ∞ Speak to your family, friends, teachers, form tutors and the careers department to help you decide

Do Choose A Course Because:

It fits your interests and abilities

You are good at it and think you will enjoy it

It links to a career idea

You think you might want to continue studying it after Year Eleven

It will help you meet the entry requirements for the post-16 options which interest you

It will help you give you plenty of choice post-16

Don't Choose A Course Because:

Your friends have chosen it

Someone else thinks it will be a good idea for you to do it

You think it will be easy

You think it's a good course for a boy/girl to do

You don't have time to research your options properly or to get any information and advice

You like the teacher you have now

How to complete my choices

1. Look carefully at the information for each option. Is there an exam or coursework?

2. Put down your first and second choice by marking a 1 and a 2 in the correct box

3. We will try as much as we can to give you both your choices, however we may have too many/few pupils. Pick a third option (just in case) by placing a 3 in the right box

<u>Option Choices</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Coursework</u>	<u>Exam</u>
GCSE Art		Yes	Yes
GCSE Photography		Yes	Yes
GCSE History		No	Yes
Hospitality and Tourism (Food)		Yes	No
Land Based Studies		Yes	No
Functional Skills Computing		No	Yes
Business		Yes	Yes

All of these courses will run for 2 years, until the end of year 11. If there are not enough pupils for each subject then unfortunately it will not run.

Notes
