

Post 16 Options

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Decision making

- Some people have a clear idea about what they want to do in the future
- For others it's a balance of what they enjoy and what they are good at...
- Before you decide which route is best for you after your GCSE's you will need to think a little bit further ahead!



Think about

- What might you want to do until you are 18 (Post 16 options) ?
- What might you want to do after you're 18 (Post 18 Options) ?
- Using your strengths

Remember... There are resources at school which could help you with these decisions.



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Where are we now...GCSEs

GCSEs are your first chance to choose which subjects you want to learn.

Everyone studies **English, Maths** and **Science**. You will need a grade 4 in English Language and Maths to get a place on most courses after GCSEs although for a large number you need more than this.

In case you hadn't heard... the grades used for GCSEs have been changing since September 2016.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
	5
C	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	U
U	U



Options after Year 11

College to study
BTEC's / A Levels

University

Further Study

Further Education –
Career specific courses



Degree / Higher
Apprenticeships

Employment

Employment with
Training

Gap Year
(then university)



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Career Plan

You may not have a specific career plan in mind, and it can sometimes be hard to decide which path to follow.

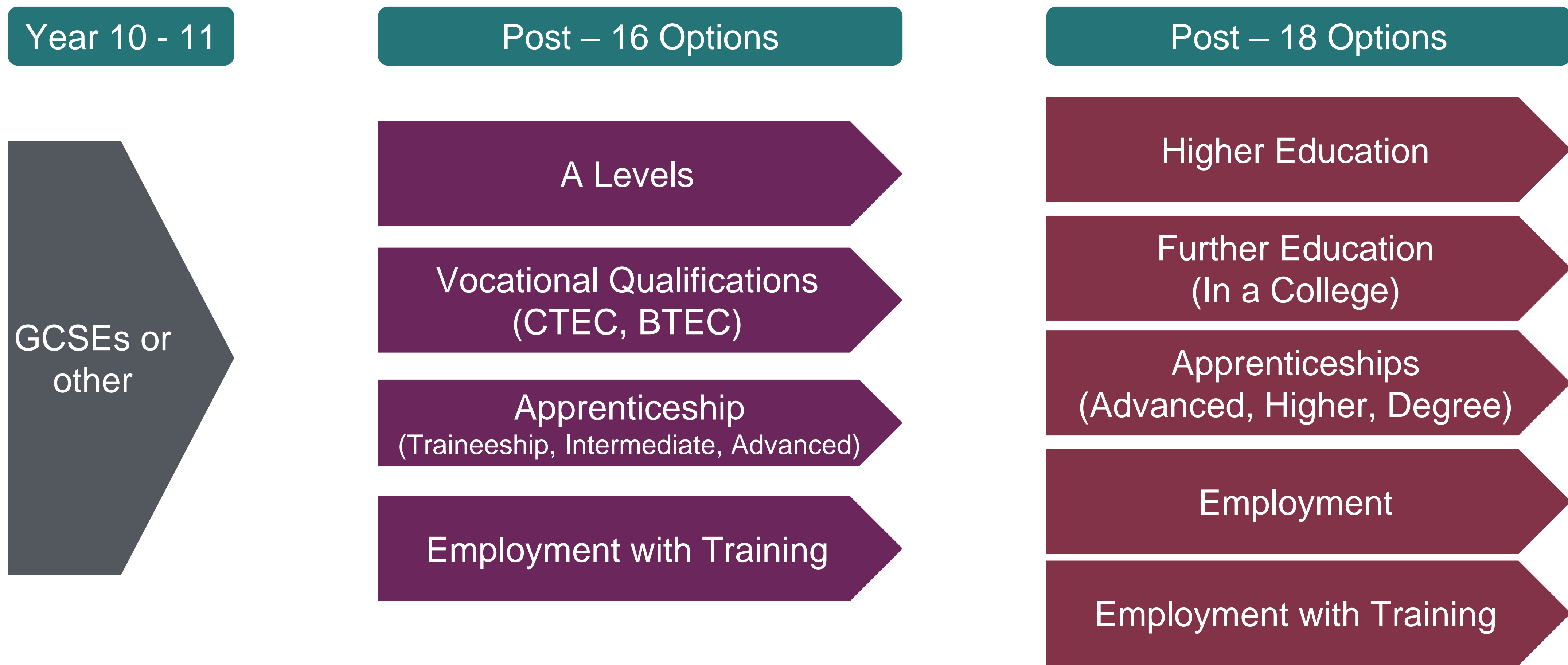
Or you might have a very set objective and so have few choices about the subjects you study next.

You might choose a career or subject because of its broad in appeal, where there are plenty of different careers you could consider going into once you've finished studying.



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What's next?



How do **A Levels** work?

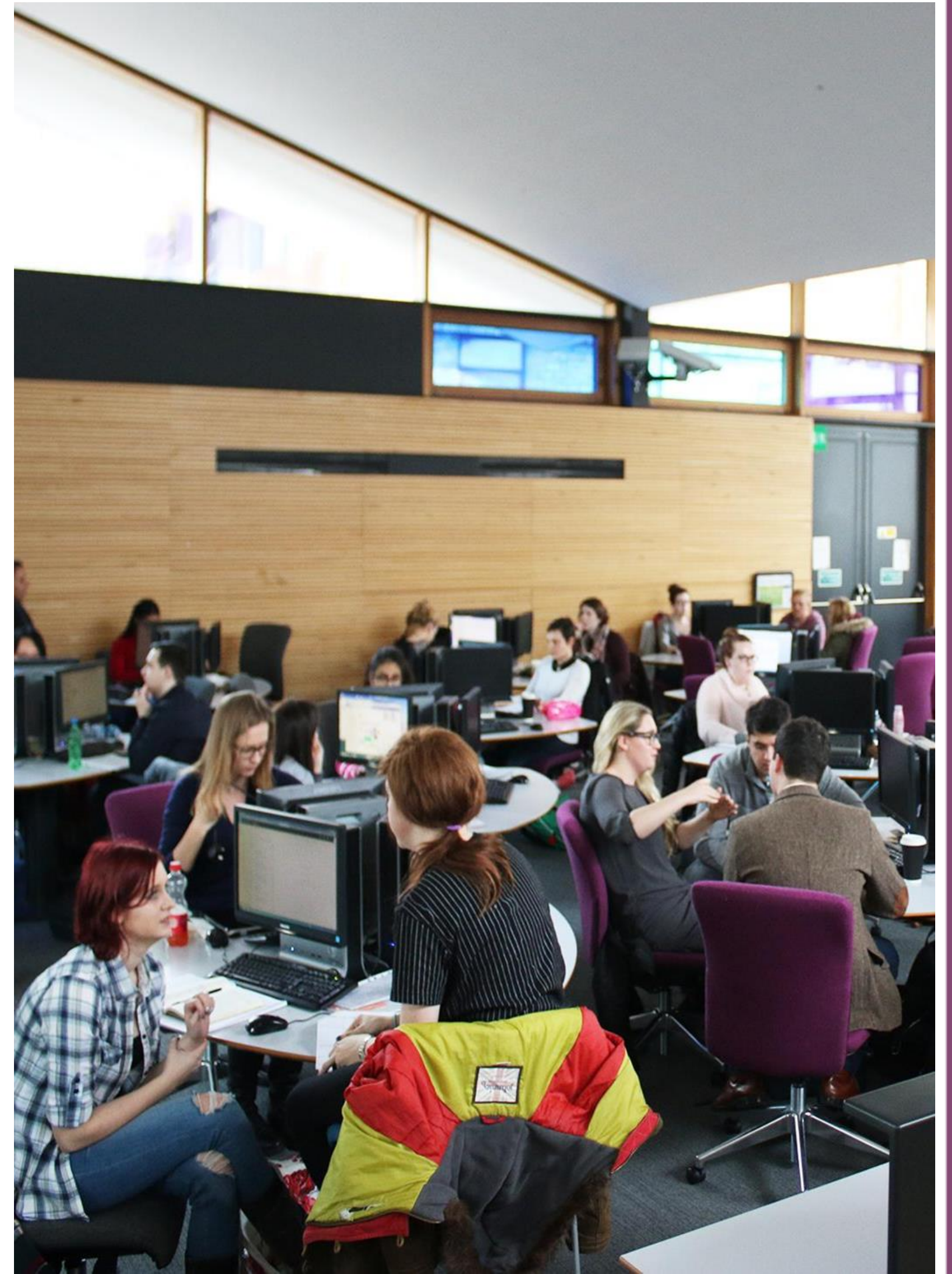
- All subjects involve terminal assessment, i.e. all exams after 2 years
- The AS Level still exists, but as a standalone qualification
- Assessment by exam has increased, and coursework has all but disappeared, there are some exceptions to this, such as Art and Music.
- The practical component of Science A Levels (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) no longer counts towards the final grade. There is a separate Pass/Fail judgement.



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Thinking about **A-Levels**?

- A-Levels are a lot more work than GCSEs – be prepared!
- Students generally take three subjects where they can demonstrate their abilities.
- Most schools and colleges require at least 5's and 6's in the subjects you want to study
- You'll need GCSE English Language and Maths at grade 4 or 5 or above, whether or not you study them at A-Level



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Vocational Courses – BTECs, CTEC

BTECs are specialist qualifications that can help you get started in your chosen career.

They combine practical learning with subject specific and theory content.

You will need a GCSE grade 4 or higher in English and Maths before you can progress to either level.

These courses will not prepare you for a specific role like an apprenticeship but will provide an insight to an industry and a vocational alternative to A-Levels. They will include some work experience.



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Vocational Courses

- Designed in partnership with employers, universities and professional or trade organisations - this means that you can develop the skills that employers want.
- You can gain knowledge needed to progress to a higher level - such as a degree level courses or apprenticeships.
- **BTECs are great because...**They give you the broad knowledge and skills required to work in a range of jobs within an industry.

BTEC	Equivalent
Level 2	5 GCSEs
Level 3 Diploma	2 A-Levels
Level 3 Extended Diploma	3 A-Levels
Level 4 +	1 st Year undergraduate degree



Thinking about subjects?

- They provide an opportunity to think deeply about your subject, satisfy intellectual curiosity, and engage with like-minded students. You need to be interested!
- Some subject combinations are complimentary and fit well together – such as doing physics and mathematics or another science. This can help you in your studies and enable you to meet entry requirements for higher level courses in future.



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Future plans

- If you have a particular career, job or further study in mind you may need to choose certain subjects in order to meet entry requirements.
- Similarly, some universities discourage students from taking certain combinations of A-level subjects, especially where there may be an overlap in content, such as with business studies and economics.
- The issue of subject combinations can be particularly important if you're studying science subjects.



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Not sure what to study?

- Start backwards – I would like to be....
- If you have a career or university course in mind, check the entry requirements because you may need specific subjects and grades.
- Choose a subject for which you have a genuine intellectual curiosity
- Choose a subject you need for your chosen university course or career path



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Thinking ahead

It's important when choosing to know where the subjects can lead you.

After further study you might want to think about; employment, apprenticeships or higher study.

For some of these routes there might be certain grades employers or training organisations are looking for.

The more skills you can show them the more options you have.



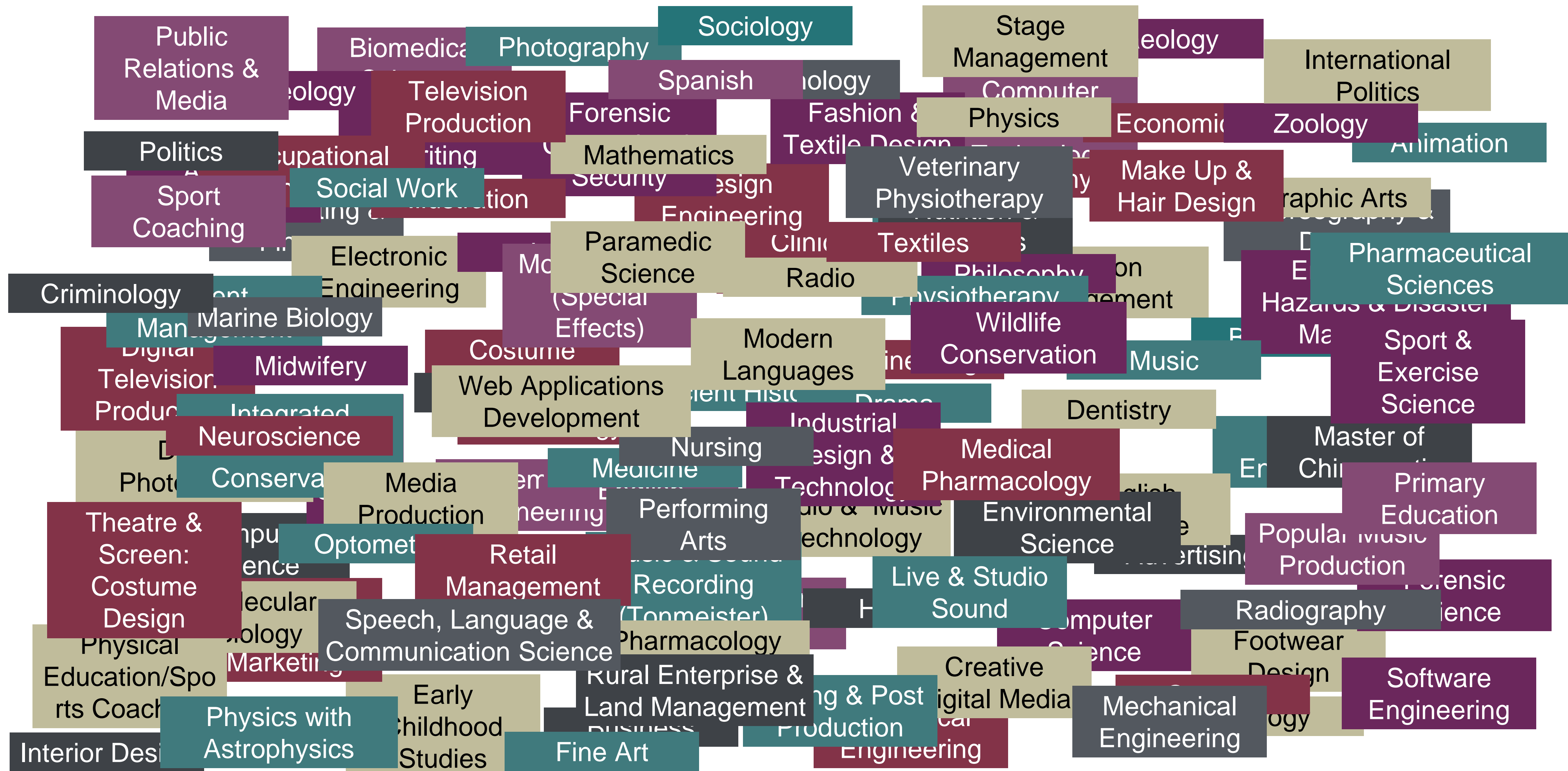
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University - What is out there?

- There are over 35,000 different course options.
- Some courses are nearly 100% coursework others only assess you via exams.
- For some they want very specific subjects after you study GCSE's for others they know you can not have studied the subject before.
- Many have certificates and accreditation for you to 'do the job' straight after the degree finishes.



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...Preparing for University!

It might be that you are not sure if its for you yet, but choosing subjects to keep your options open can be really important so you can decide later on.

Although there are some great apprenticeship for some routes training is still by degree.



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Which subjects will give me the greatest number of options?

- Some subjects are more frequently required for entry to degree courses than others. These can be called ‘**facilitating**’ because choosing them leaves open a wide range of options for university study.

These facilitating subjects are:

Biology

English literature

History

Modern & classical languages

Chemistry

Geography

Physics

Maths & Further Maths

- If you don't know what you want to study at university then it's a really good rule of thumb that taking two facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of degree courses open to you.



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Careers using chemistry



Botanist

Botanists study all forms of plant life and have many different job roles in lots of areas.

Also known as:
Plant biologist



Zookeeper

Zookeepers look after animals in zoos, safari parks, aquariums and sometimes in the wild.



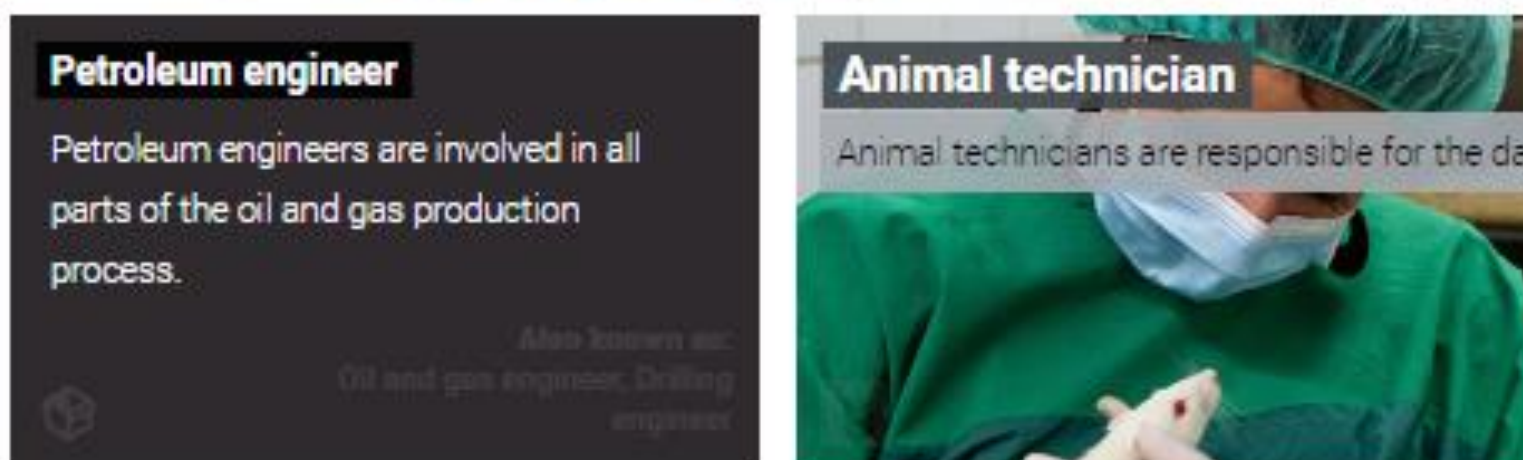
Environmental health officer

Environmental health officers make sure homes and work places are safe, hygienic



Dentist

Dentists diagnose and treat problems affecting the mouth and teeth.



Petroleum engineer

Petroleum engineers are involved in all parts of the oil and gas production process.

Also known as:
Oil and gas engineer, Drilling engineer



Animal technician

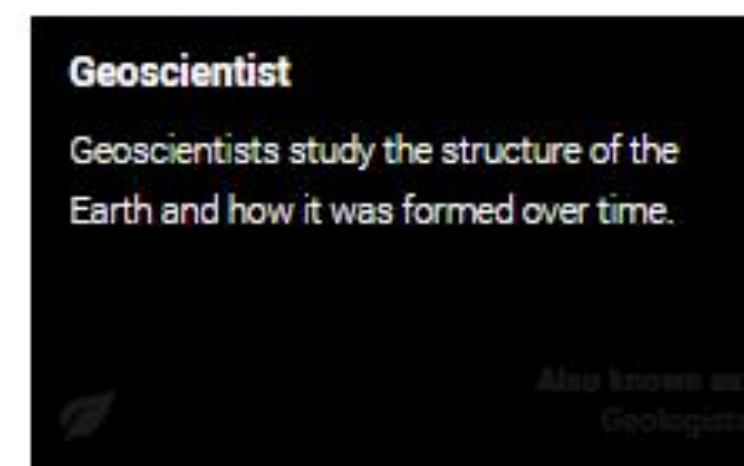
Animal technicians are responsible for the day-to-day needs of laboratory animals.



Biomedical scientist

Biomedical scientists, also known as clinical scientists, test patient samples.

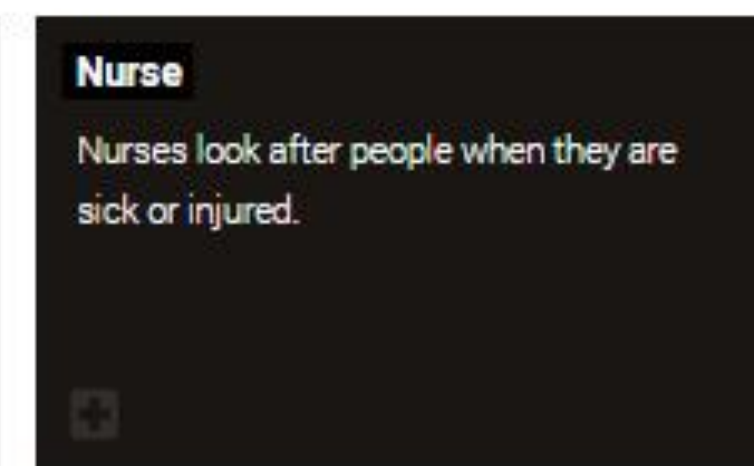
Also known as:
Clinical scientist



Geoscientist

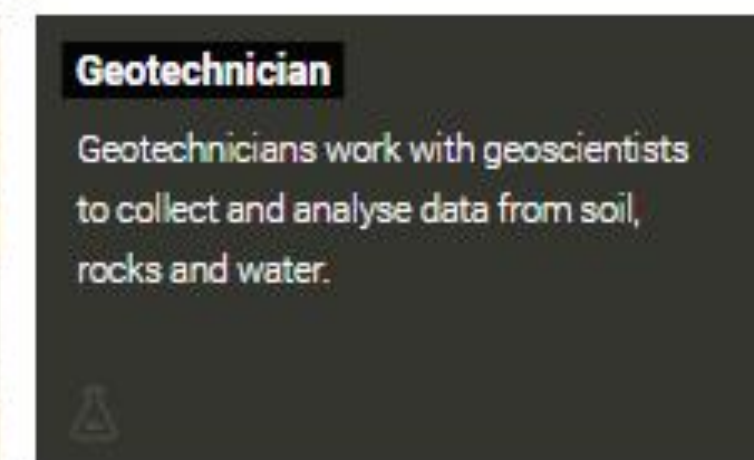
Geoscientists study the structure of the Earth and how it was formed over time.

Also known as:
Geologists



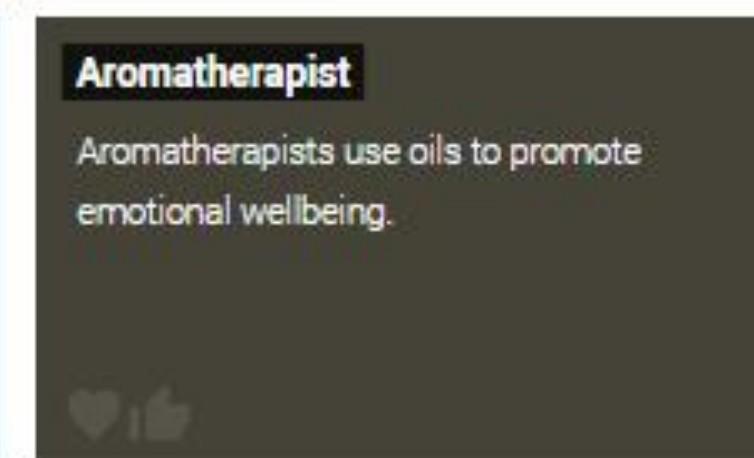
Nurse

Nurses look after people when they are sick or injured.



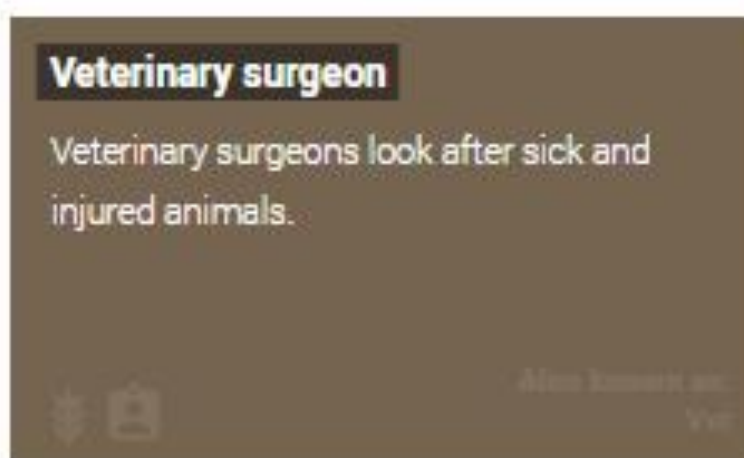
Geotechnician

Geotechnicians work with geoscientists to collect and analyse data from soil, rocks and water.



Aromatherapist

Aromatherapists use oils to promote emotional wellbeing.



Veterinary surgeon

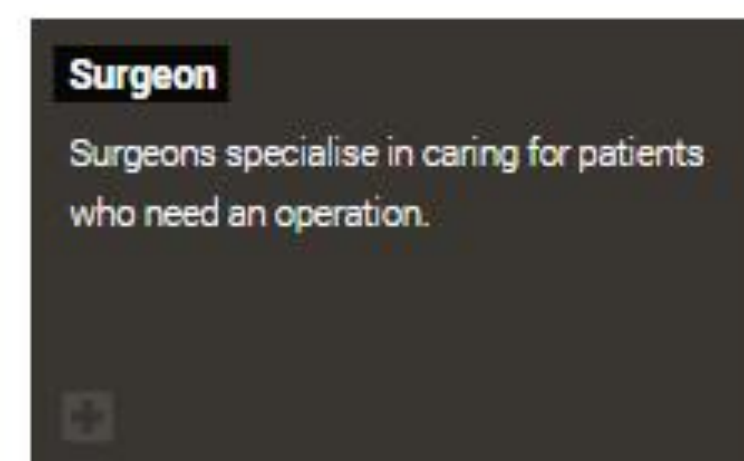
Veterinary surgeons look after sick and injured animals.

Also known as:
Vet



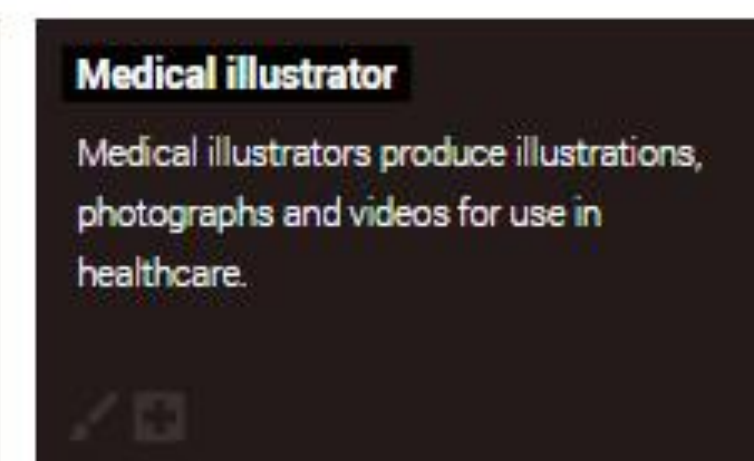
Homeopath

Homeopaths create natural remedies to try and stimulate the body's healing process.



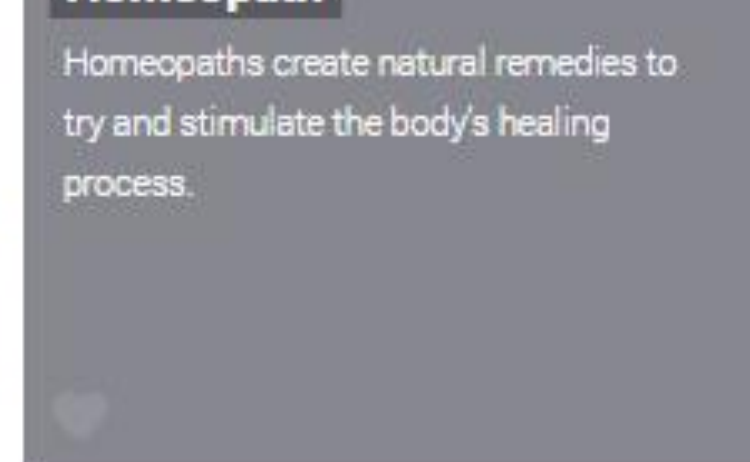
Surgeon

Surgeons specialise in caring for patients who need an operation.



Medical illustrator

Medical illustrators produce illustrations, photographs and videos for use in healthcare.



Primary school teacher

Primary school teachers teach children from the ages of four to 11



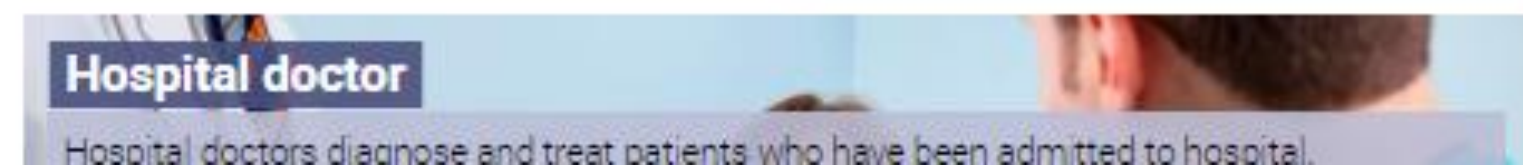
Medical secretary

Medical secretaries provide administrative and secretarial support to the medical sector.



Pathologist

Pathologists work with doctors, nurses and other medical specialists to diagnose and treat illness.



Hospital doctor

Hospital doctors diagnose and treat patients who have been admitted to hospital.



Food scientist

Food scientists develop and test different

How to NOT choose your next steps

- Do not choose a subject on the basis of a quick look at the website
- Don't put off going somewhere your friends aren't going
- Do not choose a subject you think 'will be good for you'
- Courses are going to be more difficult than they are at GCSE, embrace challenge
- Do not take an uninformed risk



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What you are likely to be good at?

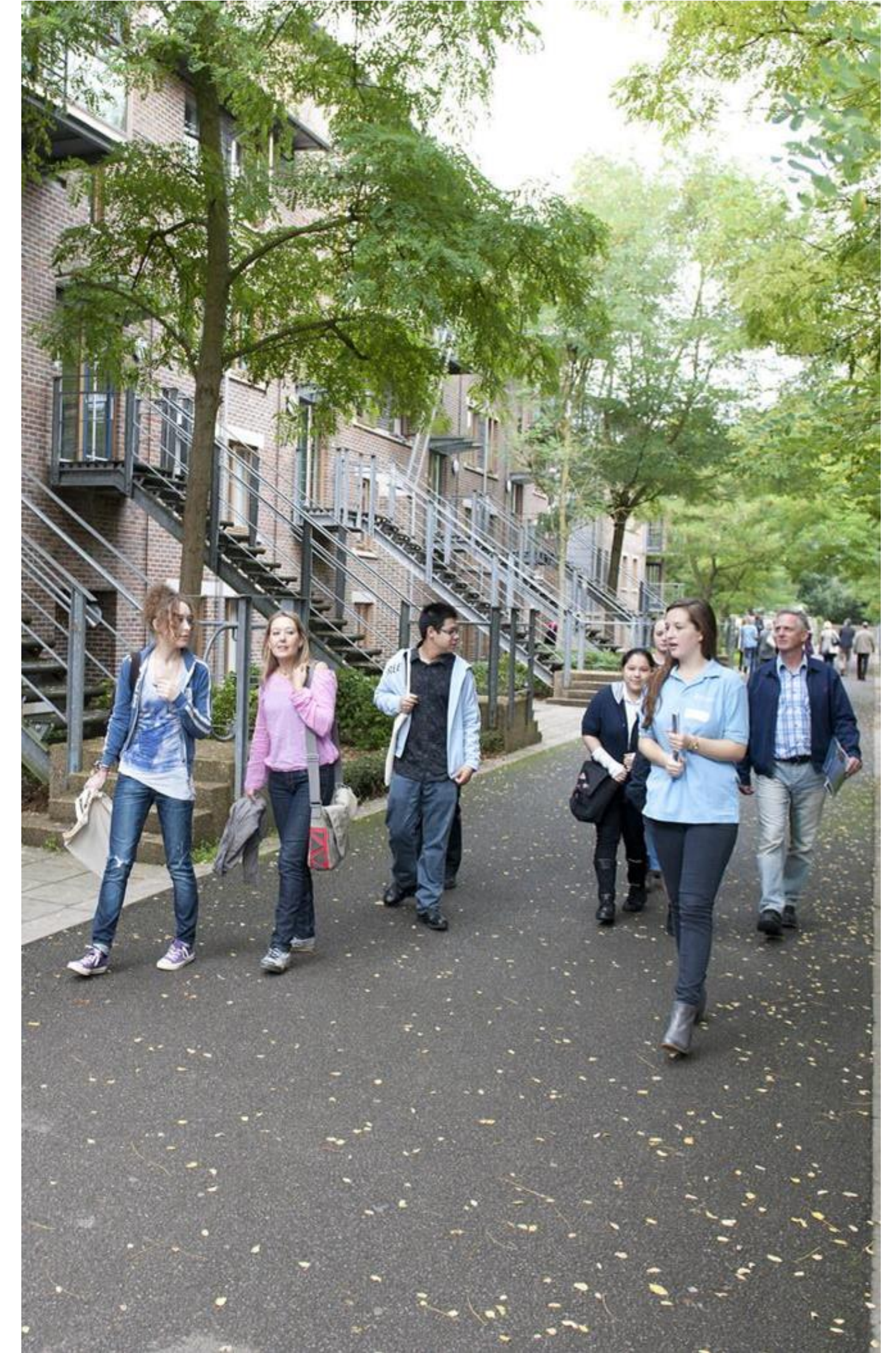
- Usually we enjoy the things that we are good at, and do better at these things.
- The hippocampus, a brain area linked with memory and learning, is significantly more active in students with a positive attitude. [*Stanford Uni Study*](#)
- Topics that interest you, skills you like to use can be one way of helping you determine which options to choose.



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Course content, assessment and workload

- Ask teachers and advisers about the workload of the subjects – the essay writing, independent reading or project work you may be expected to do for each - and consider what this may mean for you and your choices.
- You may find it helpful to look at course syllabuses (sometimes called specifications) which set out what you will study and what you will be expected to learn.



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Applying and Entry Grades

- Almost all Sixth Forms and Colleges have an entry thresholds
- School and Colleges will provide further details on Open Evenings (Its important to attend to see what a subject looks like)
- Most also have individual subject entry requirements
- For example South Devon College require Grade 6 to study Maths and Science A Levels (Some other subjects also have minimum entry thresholds.)



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Over the next few months

- Know what you want to study? – Research the entry requirements
- Not sure yet? – Keep your options open!
- GCSE results matter
- Aim for a balance
- Make sure you know why you are choosing your subjects



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Any Questions?



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