



A Guide to Curriculum Choices for Year 10

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Pathways

You are here
in Key Stage 3

Where you
are heading...

University
Apprenticeships
College
Work

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Year 10
September
2025



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Everybody will study the Core:

- English (2 GCSEs)
- Maths (1 GCSE)
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- Religious Studies (Full Course, 1 GCSE)
- PE (non-examined)
- PSHE (non-examined)



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What you need to decide

Which of these subjects are you going to take into Year 10 and 11?

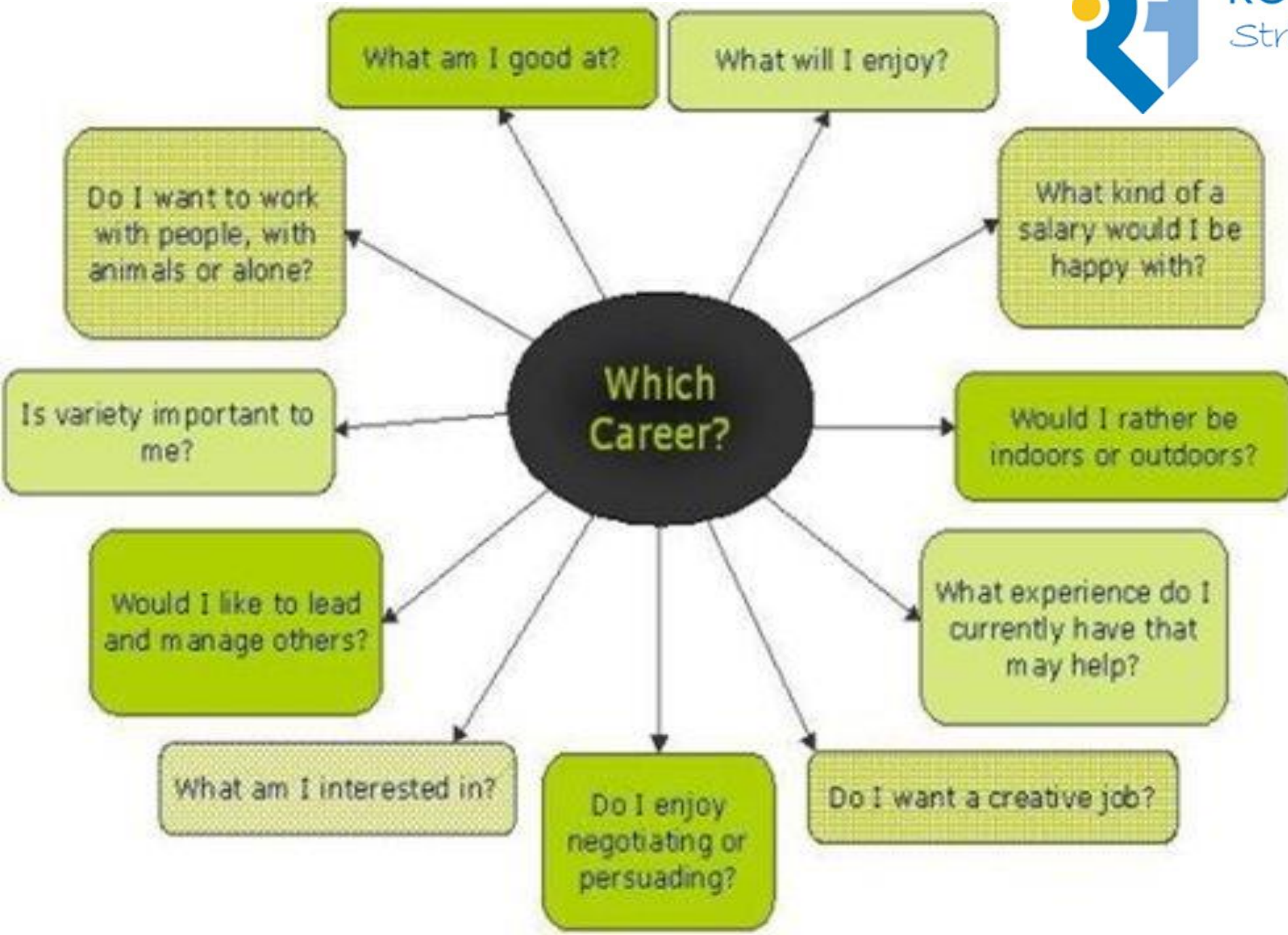
- All students will pick at least one subject out of History and Geography.
- If you currently study a language, you will continue it into next year.
- You have two further option choices, mostly from subjects you studied in Year 9 (with some new subjects).



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How do you choose?





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1) The EBacc:

- This is a suite of qualifications that is considered important for a broad range of GCSEs. It includes
 - English, Maths, Science, a Language and a Humanity.
- You have already chosen your Language, but you will need to make a decision about whether to study History or Geography.

2) Preferences and progress:



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- Are you making better progress in some subjects than others?
- What skills are you learning in your subjects that will be helpful in the future?
- Do you have a future career in mind?
- Which subjects are you enjoying?
- Do you like some of your subjects better than others?

3) Don't use these reasons:



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- It's getting difficult.
 - (Embrace the challenge and be resilient.)
- There's a lot to learn and do.
 - (This is the same in every subject.)
- My friends are dropping that subject.
 - (Be your own person.)



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Science

All students in Year 10 will study Combined Science: 2 GCSEs

- This is compulsory for everyone (10 hours a fortnight).

At the end of Year 10, students who are making good progress will automatically be transferred onto the Triple Science course: 3 GCSEs

- Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



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Can I choose a
new subject?

- Most of your subjects will be those you have studied before.
- There are three subjects that are new in Year 10 that were not available in Year 9. They are:
 - Business Studies GCSE
 - Health and Social Care BTEC Level 2
 - Media Studies GCSE
 - Sociology GCSE



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So what are
the full range
of options?

Languages:

Chinese (spoken Mandarin) GCSE
French GCSE
German GCSE
Latin GCSE
Ancient Greek GCSE

Humanities:

Geography GCSE
History GCSE

Other Qualifications:

Functional Skills English
Functional Skills Maths
Personal Development

OTHER GCSEs:

Art & Design: Fine Art & Ceramics GCSE
Business Studies GCSE
Computer Science GCSE
Design and Technology GCSE
Drama GCSE
Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE
Media Studies GCSE
Music GCSE
Sociology GCSE

Vocational Qualifications:

Health and Social Care BTEC
Music BTEC
Sports BTEC



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BUSINESS

Subject Lead: Ms J Chambers

Exam Board: Pearson

Who is it suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who have a keen interest in Business and would like to understand how businesses are structured and operated. We teach the GCSE Business course and, as such, it is good for students who can remember a lot of information and who are good at essay writing in exams.

What will students learn?

The course includes the following topics:

Aims and Organisation, Marketing, Finance, People in Business, Production and the Business Environment.

How will students be assessed?

The whole course is assessed by two written exam papers at the end of the 2-year course, each 90 minutes in length.

Controlled coursework/homework:

GCSE homework is given once a week.



What are the
new subjects?

What are the new subjects?

Head of Department: Mrs L Hyde
Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas



Who is it suitable for?

Media Studies encourages creativity and analytical skills and introduces students to critical ways of thinking about the world around them. If students relish variety, seek out challenges and thrive on a creative buzz, then GCSE Media Studies is for them.

What will students learn?

GCSE Media Studies is designed to teach students about the different media forms currently available to us including Music Video, Newspapers, Film, Video Games, Radio, Magazines, Advertising and Marketing, Television, Online, Social and Participatory Media, allowing them to understand the media and its role in our daily lives.

Students will investigate a variety of media products over the period of the course; they will be analysing and evaluating them in terms of the way they use "media language" to construct representations, communicate a message, are targeted at and sold to specific audiences. Students consider issues surrounding the media industries and experiment with a range of media production skills and techniques (such as camerawork, lighting, sound, photographic and video editing). They learn how to use industry standard software such as Adobe Photoshop and Premiere Pro.

How will students be assessed?

Component 1 (Written Exam 35%): Students will need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding about media language and representation in relation to: magazines, marketing, newspapers, or print advertisements. They will also need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding about media industries and audiences in relation to: film, newspapers, radio and video games.

Component 2 (Written Exam 35%): Students will need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding about media language, representation, industry and audience in relation to television and music videos.

Component 3 (Non-Exam Assessment 30%): Students will create an individual media production. The production will be for one of the following media forms: Television, Magazines, Film Marketing or Music Marketing.

What are the new subjects?

SOCIOLOGY

Head of Department: Mrs S Gardezi
Exam Board: AQA



Who is it suitable for?

The Sociology GCSE course covers a range of topics such as the family, education, crime & deviance, social stratification and underpinning all of this is sociological theory and research methods.

Students learn to develop a range of skills including interpretation of data, analysis, interpretation and evaluation. Students are encouraged to develop the ability to question patterns and explanations for social changes taking place and to think critically. It is therefore essential that students possess an interest in current social affairs. Students are taught in mixed ability classes.

What will students learn?

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

- o The sociology of families
- o The sociology of education
- o Sociological theory and methodology

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

- o The sociology of crime and deviance
- o The sociology of social stratification
- o Sociological theory and methodology



How will students be assessed?

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

What's assessed

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.





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Studying Business, Health and Social Care or Sociology

If you wish to study one of these subjects:

- You should find the teachers of these subjects to find out more before you decide.
- If you are sure that one of these subjects is for you, great, but you are only allowed to choose one.
- You should be making good progress in English and Maths.

Some Subjects provide Technical Awards.



- A practical approach to study
E.g. 75% Coursework, 25% Examination
- Rewarding effort
- Unit work
- Continually assessed
- GCSE equivalence

How are they
graded and
what do we
offer?

- Pass = 4
 - Merit = 5.5
 - Distinction = 7
 - Distinction* = 8.5
-
- **Music** BTEC
 - **Health & Social Care** BTEC
 - **Sports** (i.e. PE) BTEC



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Why should you
take qualifications
seriously?



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- To give you a choice of jobs in the future
- To make sure you enjoy your working life
- To improve your earning power
- To show other people what you can do
- To show yourself what you can do
- To prove to other people that you can learn

How do I let
the school
know which
subjects I
want to
choose for
Year 10/11?



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- You should discuss at home your options choices with your parents and with your teachers at Parent Consultation Evening on Wednesday 26th February.
- You will be **off timetable** on Wednesday 5th March but will be invited in for a 15 minute meeting with your parent to discuss your choices.
- You will be set an online form to fill in on 5th March.
- The form will be due 6th March .
- It will be set as an assignment on Bromcom.

Who can help me?



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- Online career tools such as National Careers Service.
 - Progress reviews and reports.
 - Subject teachers.
 - Family and Friends.
-
- They are all there to help you with your decision making.
 - Make the most of them so that you choose options that work for you.

What's next?



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- **Weds 26th Feb** - Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening.
- **Weds 5th March** – Options Interview Day and form released.
- **Thurs 6th Mar** - Deadline for the Options assignment to be completed online.
- We will confirm whether your choices by email where successful, and will have follow up conversations with you where needed.
- You will start these options in your new timetable for Y10 and will continue them into Year 11.



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“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance, determines your destiny.”
Aristotle