



HEON
HIGHER EDUCATION
OUTREACH NETWORK



WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS AFTER KEY STAGE 4?

INFORMATION AND LINKS

APPRENTICESHIPS?

YEAR 10

A LEVELS?

YEAR 11

T LEVELS?

BTECS?

[HEON.ORG.UK](https://www.heon.org.uk)

PREPARING FOR YEAR 10

Before Year 10, you will have had to choose your Key Stage 4 options (GCSEs, BTECs...). Now is the time to think about your interests and talents and what they reveal about you. This will help you discover the kind of study, training and careers that you may be suited to.

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS THROUGH AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Ask yourself:

- What are your favourite subjects and why?
- Are there any topics that make you think you may want to study this subject in the future?

TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES

Do you?

- Enjoy classroom learning and theory?
- Enjoy project work and coursework?
- Work well to deadlines?
- Learn by discussing ideas?
- Enjoy practical hands-on activities?

RESEARCH A NEW TOPIC IN YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT

DURING YEAR 10: PREPARING FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Whether you are preparing for GCSEs or working towards other qualifications, you need to build some key skills in Year 10.

Ask yourself:

- How do you revise best?
- How could you plan your time?
- What websites and resources are available?

TALK TO A TEACHER ABOUT YOUR REVISION PLANS

THINKING ABOUT CAREERS

You do not need to have definite career ideas or goals in Year 10 and 11, but you do need to explore ideas to help decide what to do after Year 11.

Ask yourself:

- What type of careers appeal to you?
- What would you be doing as part of this job?
- What could your personal qualities and skills be suited to?

FIND OUT WHAT QUALIFICATIONS YOU NEED TO ENTER THESE CAREERS

SPEAK TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THEIR JOBS AND CAREERS

Consider your career:

- Why does this career appeal to you?
- Do you need certain GCSEs or qualifications to enter it?
- How would it match with the kind of life you want to lead? E.g. Shift work? Salary? Working away from home?
- How competitive is it to enter this career?
- Are there similar related roles that interest you?

GET SOME WORK EXPERIENCE AND TAKE PART IN INSIGHT DAYS

MAKING YOUR CHOICES FOR AFTER YEAR 11

You have to continue with education or training for two years after Year 11. This could take place in a school sixth form, college or in the workplace as part of an apprenticeship.

Ask yourself:

- What qualifications do your grades access?
- How do you learn best?
- Which subjects interest you?
- Do you see yourself as a student at college or in the workplace?
- What are your longer term plans? Do you have a career in mind?
- Which qualifications and subjects does this require?

FOUR COMMON ROUTES FOR AFTER YEAR 11

A LEVELS are subject orientated qualifications with much of the final grade determined by exams at the end of the course and small amount of coursework or practical assignments

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Five subjects at grade 4
- The A Level subject chosen may require grade 6 or 7 in a related GCSE

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

Knowledge, Analysis Skills and Critical Thinking

BENEFITS:

Preparation for the demands of higher education, training or work

BTECS are industry orientated qualifications with much of the final BTEC grade determined through project-based tasks and practical assessments

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Level 3 require four GCSE subjects at grade 4
- Level 2 require less than four grade 4s

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

Work based knowledge, skills and aptitudes applicable to work-based projects and tasks

BENEFITS:

Preparation for the demands of further and higher education, training or work

T LEVELS are a 2 year qualification equivalent to 3 A Levels. They involve more classroom study than apprenticeships. Students can experience an industry while studying

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Five subjects at grade 4 at GCSE
- May require English and Maths grade 4

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

80% of learning takes place in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement with an employer to develop the knowledge and skills companies look for

BENEFITS:

T Levels will be worth UCAS points and will be recognised by education providers so you can continue studying if you wish

APPRENTICESHIPS are a salaried job specific qualification. It provides training for a specific trade or profession

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Advanced require five GCSE subjects at grade 4
- Intermediate require three or four subjects at grade 3

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

Knowledge, skills and aptitudes for work-based tasks

BENEFITS:

Prepare students for the demands of further and higher education, training or work

All of these routes will prepare you for a variety of post 18 options including higher education, further training or employment

WHAT AM I GOOD AT?

Start Profile - guest.startprofile.com

Check out your options, complete activities to explore the world of work and improve your employability

I Could - www.icould.com/buzz-quiz

Take the quiz to identify your strengths and personal qualities and use the links to watch suggested career videos

RESEARCH CAREERS

Careerpilot - www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors

A page packed with information about lots of different industries

Student Ladder - www.studentladder.co.uk/Careers

Articles on a range of careers can be found here with plenty of other information available about your choices

UCAS Careers - bit.ly/UCASCareers

Research some job families and find out about work experience and other opportunities

National Careers Service - nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

Choose from over 800 career profiles to discover what each job involves.

Bright Knowledge - www.brightknowledge.org/careers

Support with planning your career, discovering possible career options and information on the job application process.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT OPTIONS?

HEON Transition Resources - www.heon.org.uk/transition

A selection of different topics to help prepare for your transition into either further or higher education.

Informed Choices - www.informedchoices.ac.uk

Advice from Russell Group on choosing A Levels

A Levels - bit.ly/UCASalevel

Find out more about A Levels on the UCAS website

T Levels - www.tlevels.gov.uk

Find out what T Levels are about and where you could possibly study them

BTECs - bit.ly/UCASbtec

Find out more about BTECs on the UCAS website

Apprenticeships - bit.ly/GOVapprentice

A gov.uk page full of information about apprenticeships and how to find one

School Leavers - www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk

Provides essential information about the options if you decide to leave school

Amazing Apprenticeships - www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Explore resources, research and apply to apprenticeships

Success at School - www.successatschool.org

Explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, apprenticeships, courses and advice

Learn from current students - www.heon.org.uk/students

Discover a selection of profiles of current students at the HEON partner universities and colleges.

CONTINUE TO
DEVELOP YOUR
SKILLS AND
QUALITIES

RESEARCH LOCAL
APPRENTICESHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

RESEARCH COURSES
AT COLLEGES AND
SIXTH FORMS

This guide has been designed by The Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON) in collaboration with Innervate Careers Services Limited. For more information visit us at www.HEON.org.uk



PROGRESS TO KS5

PROGRESS TO EDUCATION

PROGRESS TO TRAINING

AFTER YEAR 11

Progress on to your chosen education or training path and start thinking about what's next

GET YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Work hard for your GCSEs and other courses
Take your final exams

MAKING YOUR CHOICES FOR AFTER YEAR 11

EDUCATION TRAINING

Apply for college & sixth form
by autumn term of Year 11

TRAINING

Apply for
apprenticeships from
spring term of Year 11

A LEVELS

Traditional subject
orientated qualifications

A levels are taught
in the classroom
and require further
independent research
and learning

You will be largely
assessed through final
exams

T LEVELS

Industry orientated
qualifications

80% of learning takes
place in the classroom
and 20% on a 45-day
placement with an
employer to develop the
knowledge and skills
companies
look for

You will be assessed
through project based
tasks and practical
assignments

BTECS

Industry orientated
qualifications

BTECs are taught in the
classroom and require
independent learning
to develop work based
skills

You will be assessed
through project based
tasks and practical
assignments

APPRENTICESHIPS

Job-specific
qualifications

Apprenticeships are
taught through work
place experience,
observation and
practice

You may attend a local
college or training
provider to cover theory
elements

YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE WITH A QUALIFICATION
FOR TWO YEARS AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR GCSEs

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO STAY AT SCHOOL YOU
HAVE MANY OPTIONS...

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AFTER YEAR 11

EDUCATION OR TRAINING

What subjects interest you?
How do you learn best?
What grades do you need?

BEGIN RESEARCHING CAREERS

What type of careers/roles interest you?
What qualifications and skills would you need?
Can you get some work experience?

PREPARING FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Get used to your courses
How do you learn and revise best?

PREPARING FOR YEAR 10

What are your strengths and weaknesses?
What skills would you like to develop?
Which subjects do you enjoy?

AFTER
YEAR 11

YEAR 11

YEAR 10

BEFORE
YEAR 10