

Choosing your Level 2 qualifications

Your next steps: choosing your subjects and qualifications



Whether you're taking GCSEs, National 4s/5s, or something else, choosing what to study can feel overwhelming. Have no fear! This guide will take you through everything you need to know to make the right choice for you.

Check what's available

Not all schools and colleges offer the same options, and there are some subjects you have to study. For example, in England you must study English, maths, and science as your core subjects before making your other choices.

You may also find that your optional subjects are grouped according to the school timetable and you may not be able to study certain subjects because there is a clash. For example, if French and PE take place at the same time, you won't be able to study them both.

When the time comes to start making your decision, you'll be given an idea of what that timetable looks like to help you. If you have a burning desire to study clashing subjects, speak to your teachers, but bear in mind that in most cases, the timetable is set and won't be changed.

Consider your interests and skills

Once you know what's on offer, ask yourself two questions:

1. What do I like studying?
2. What am I good at?

Don't worry so much about the actual subject; think more widely about your skills and interests first, then you apply them to the subjects on offer. For example, if you like studying robotics in your spare time and you're very good at focusing on small details, computer science might be the perfect subject for you. Or, if you're interested in other cultures and have a knack for putting on accents, studying a foreign language could be your thing.

It can be tough to figure out your strengths! Start off by using the Unifrog [Competencies tool](#) to guide you, and chat to your teachers, friends, and family to get an outsider's opinion!

Don't forget to check out your school's options evening to find out exactly what you'll study in each subject to help you make your choice.

Think about what you want to do next

Some level 3 qualifications, jobs, apprenticeships, and university courses need you to have specific subject knowledge before you start. For example, if you want to work in film and television, you might need a good understanding of media studies or art to apply for an internship. Or if you want to study sport and fitness at a higher level, you might have to have evidence of your skills in and knowledge of different sports.

If you know what you want to do in the future, check out the Unifrog [Careers library](#) and look at the entry requirements section to get an idea of what you might need for your dream career.

Don't worry if you don't know what you want to do! While some jobs do have these requirements, many don't, and you could always complete a short course or [MOOC](#) in the future to upskill yourself.

Make it YOUR choice

Try not to be influenced by what your friends are picking or what your family or teachers think you should study. You are the one that has to study these subjects for two years, so choose what you know you'll like, even if the subject is challenging!

You have the right to study whatever is right for you, but if you're finding that your options are causing arguments at home, have a chat with a trusted adult or teacher. They may be able to help you with any difficult conversations and support you in making your choices.