

Making Careers choices: a parents' guide

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Things to consider when choosing A Levels

- Does he/she have a clear career aim in mind and does it need certain qualifications (like a degree) in a specific subject (e.g. engineering, nursing, teaching, medicine, social work etc.)
- Are the subjects and activities that he enjoys most ones which involve being active or creative – like PE, technology, art or music?
- In the career field they have in mind, are there well established nongraduate entry routes direct from Year 11 or after sixth form?
- Are they aiming for a top academic university? If so, then they should take at least two facilitating subjects at A Level (English Literature, Maths & Further Maths, Languages, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography)

- Maybe she/he has done OK at school but has always found study, writing assignments and sitting exams a bit of an effort.
- Are they bookish types who always have their nose in a book and enjoy the challenge of expressing themselves clearly in essays or other writing projects?
- Or perhaps they have an unusually strong ability at number work and can "see" the solutions to mathematical problems in their head and find mental arithmetic something that just comes easily?

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