



WEST BROMWICH
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

Options 2023/24

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Mr Faux / Mrs Henderson

INNOVATE
INSPIRE
COLLABORATE

This Session



WHAT ARE
OPTIONS?



HOW CAREERS AND
OPTIONS INTERLINK



WHAT SUBJECTS
STUDENTS HAVE TO
TAKE

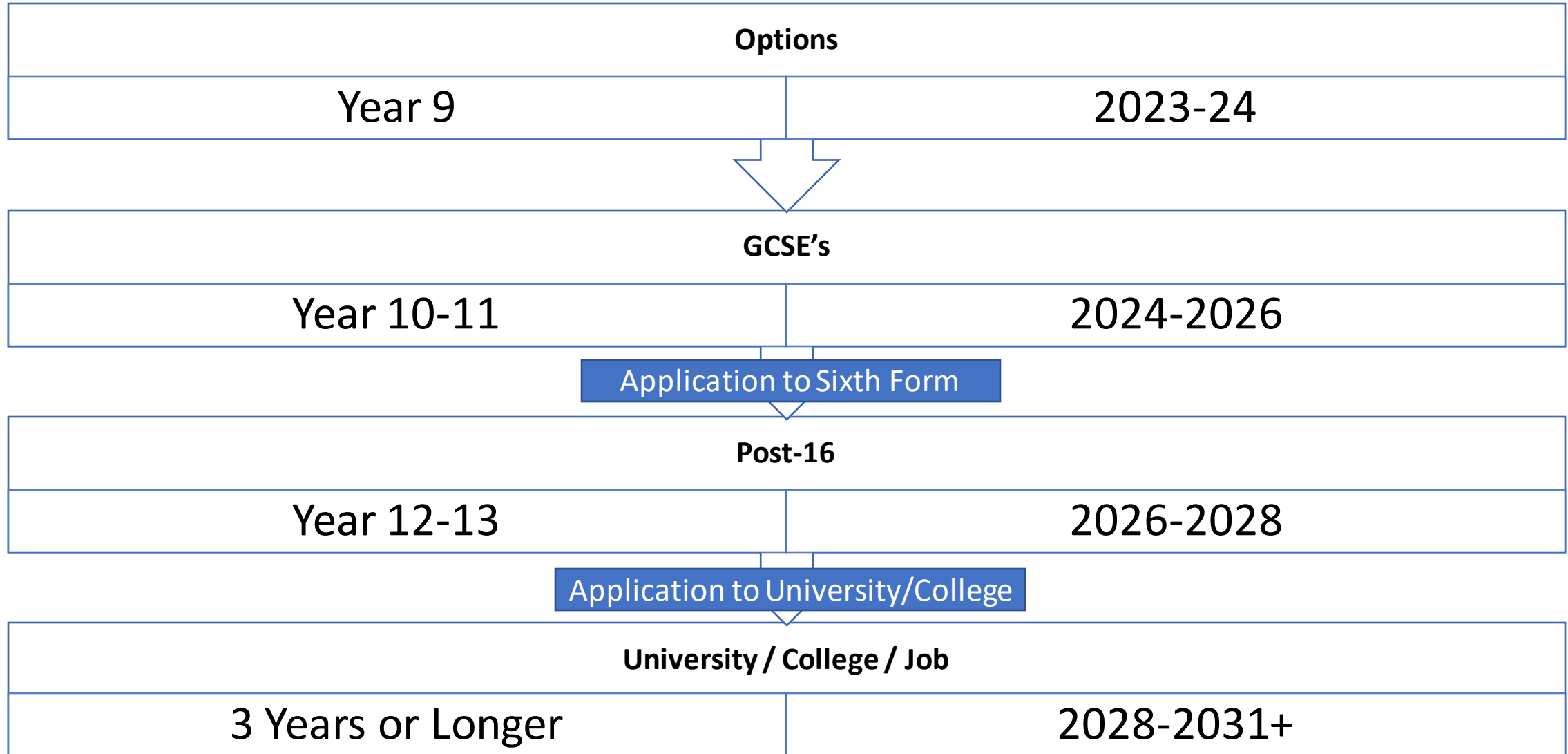


THE ENGLISH
BACCALAUREATE



THE OPTIONS
PROCESS

Timeline





What Are Options?

Options



- Options is the process of deciding the qualifications you will take at the end of Year 11. These are GCSE or equivalent qualifications. Some equivalent qualifications are BTECs or Cambridge Nationals, they all have the same value.
- They are what are known as Level 2 qualifications.
- GCSEs are graded 1-9 with 9 the highest. BTECs are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.
- Some subjects will be compulsory.
- The first chance for students to choose which subjects they want to study.
- The first chance to specialise in areas that interest them.

1-9 Vs A*-E

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U



Options Link With Careers





Fundamentally



- GCSEs are a gateway to the next step in education and getting a job in the field that your child would like to get a job in.
- This is why, even at this point, thinking about the following step is important. Will you be doing A-Levels or a practical course. If you do not pick a subject at GCSE you may find the A-Level more challenging, especially the Sciences.
- While this choice does not definitely lock off any career it will influence future direction.
- Not getting 4s in English and Mathematics means compulsory retakes.

Talking to your Child About Careers



Questions to Ask Themselves

- What does the job I want pay?
 - Where is the job I want located?
 - What grades do I need?
 - Do I want to go to University?
 - Who do I want to work for?
 - What does a normal day look like?
 - Do I want to work with computers all day?
 - Do I want to work outside?
 - Do I want to work from home?
 - Could I see myself doing this for 50 years?
-
- If you love your job, you will never work a day in your life.

Job Market Changes



- Globalisation
- Mechanisation
- Cheap Imports
- Social Change
- AI



- You need to have skills that people need and we will give you the opportunities to acquire them.

Does **AI** put your job at risk?



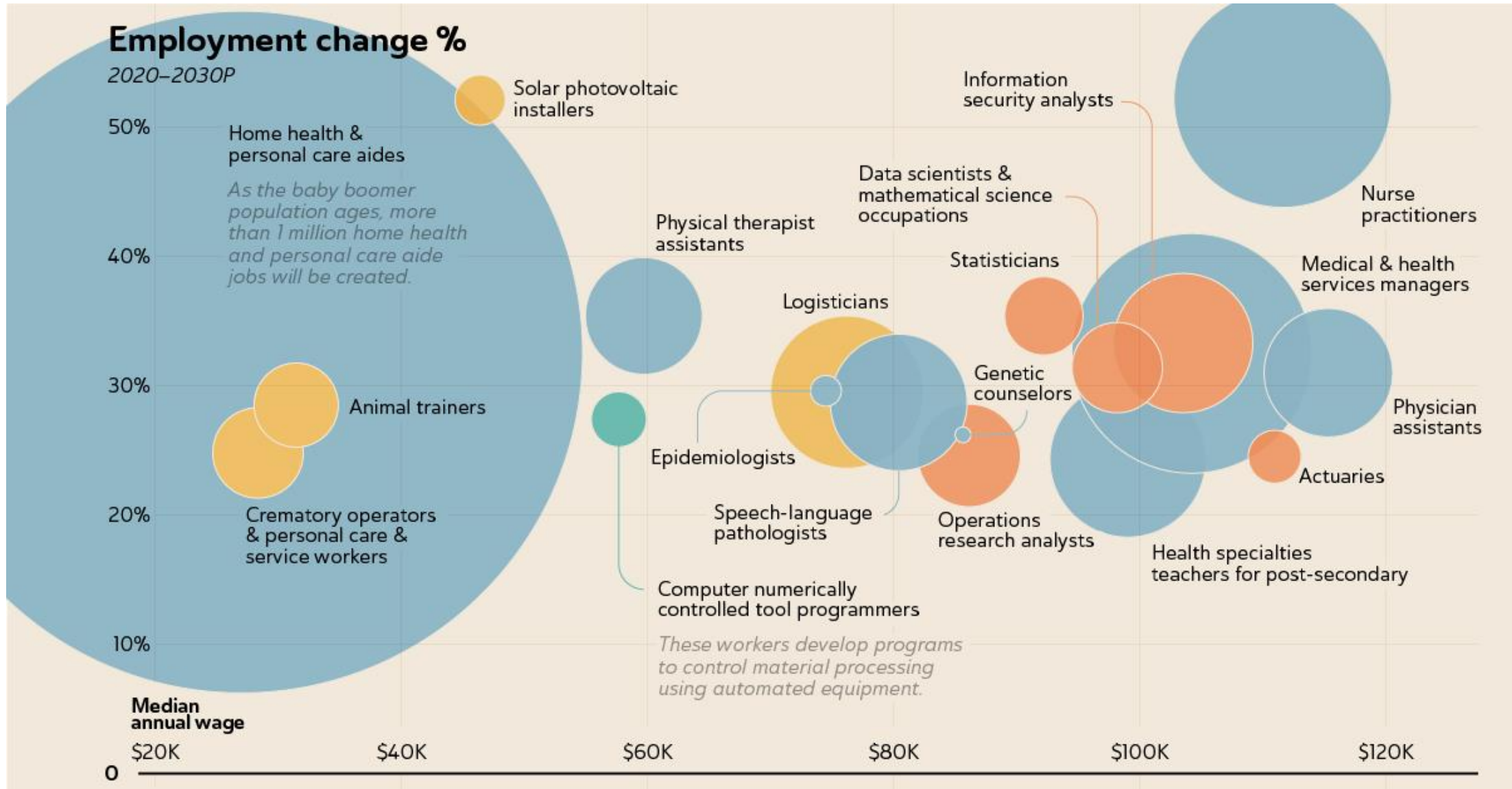
MOST AT RISK

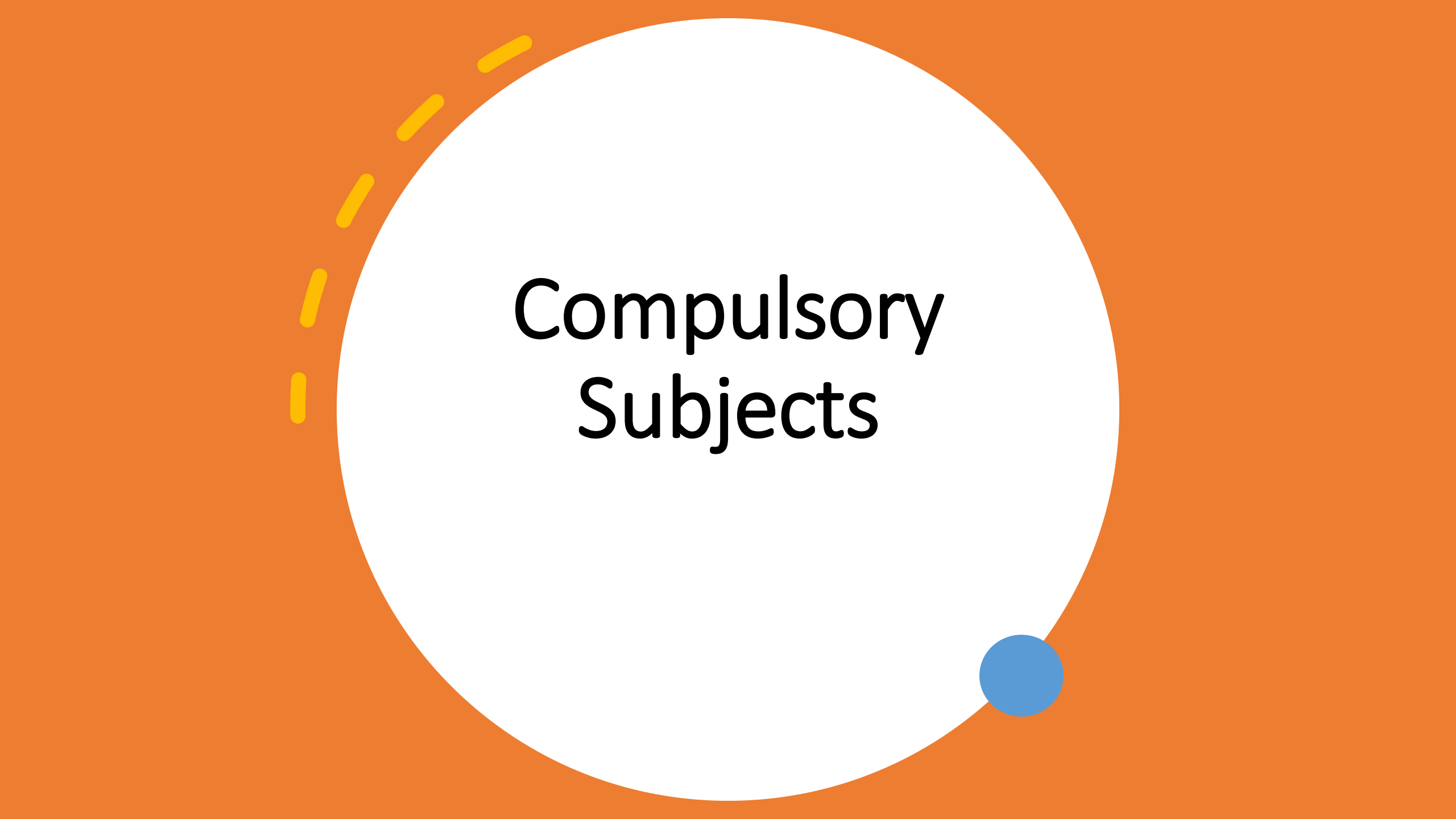
- 1 Management Consultants**
- 2 Financial Managers**
- 3 Accountants**
- 4 Psychologists**
- 5 Purchasing Managers**

LEAST AT RISK

- Sports players 1**
- Roofers 2**
- Construction Occupations 3**
- Plasterers 4**
- Steel Erectors 5**

The World is Changing - Opportunities





Compulsory Subjects



Compulsory Subjects for All Students

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Dual Science

- These are worth 5 GCSEs.

- Students will also continue to have non examination PE and Personal Development which contains statutory religious education. There are no qualifications for these areas.

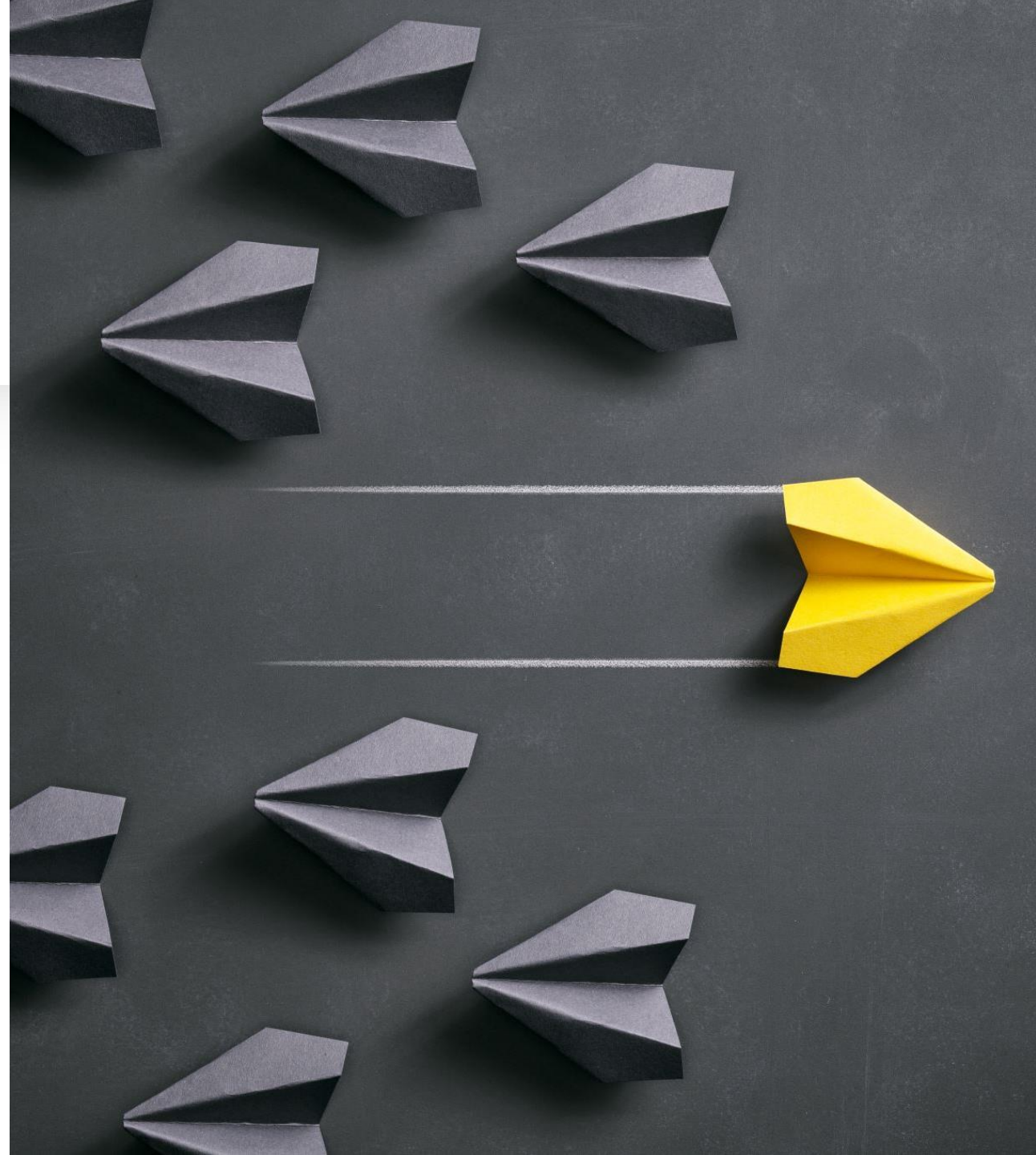
➤ English Baccalaureate



- English
- Mathematics
- Double Science
- Language
- Geography or History

9 Qualifications

- In order to make sure that all students undertake a breadth of curriculum, all students are permitted 9 qualifications rather than the standard 8 at most schools.
- This allows them to undertake the English Baccalaureate and still have 2 completely free options.





Which pathway?

White booklet – Ebacc pathway

History OR Geography

AND

A language that can be a home language

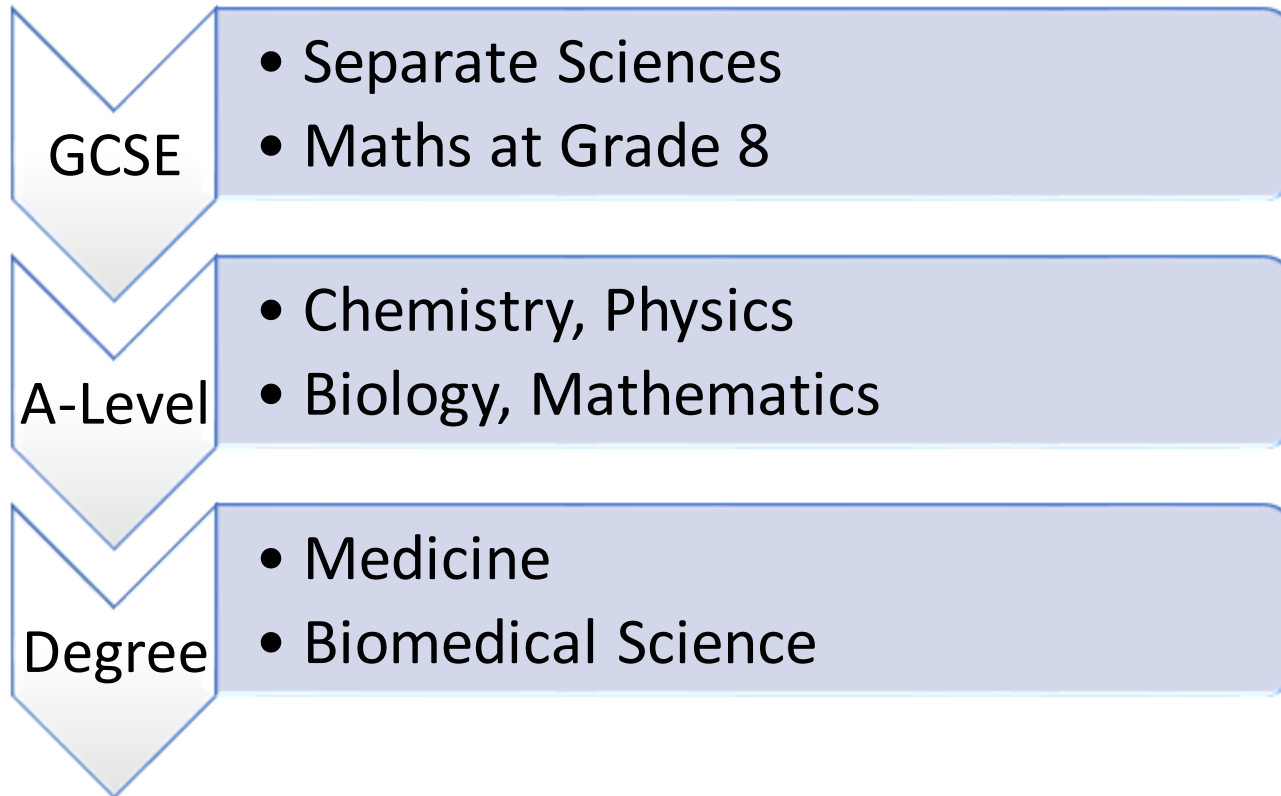
Blue booklet – alternative pathway

History OR Geography OR a language



➤ How Options affect your Career

Doctor



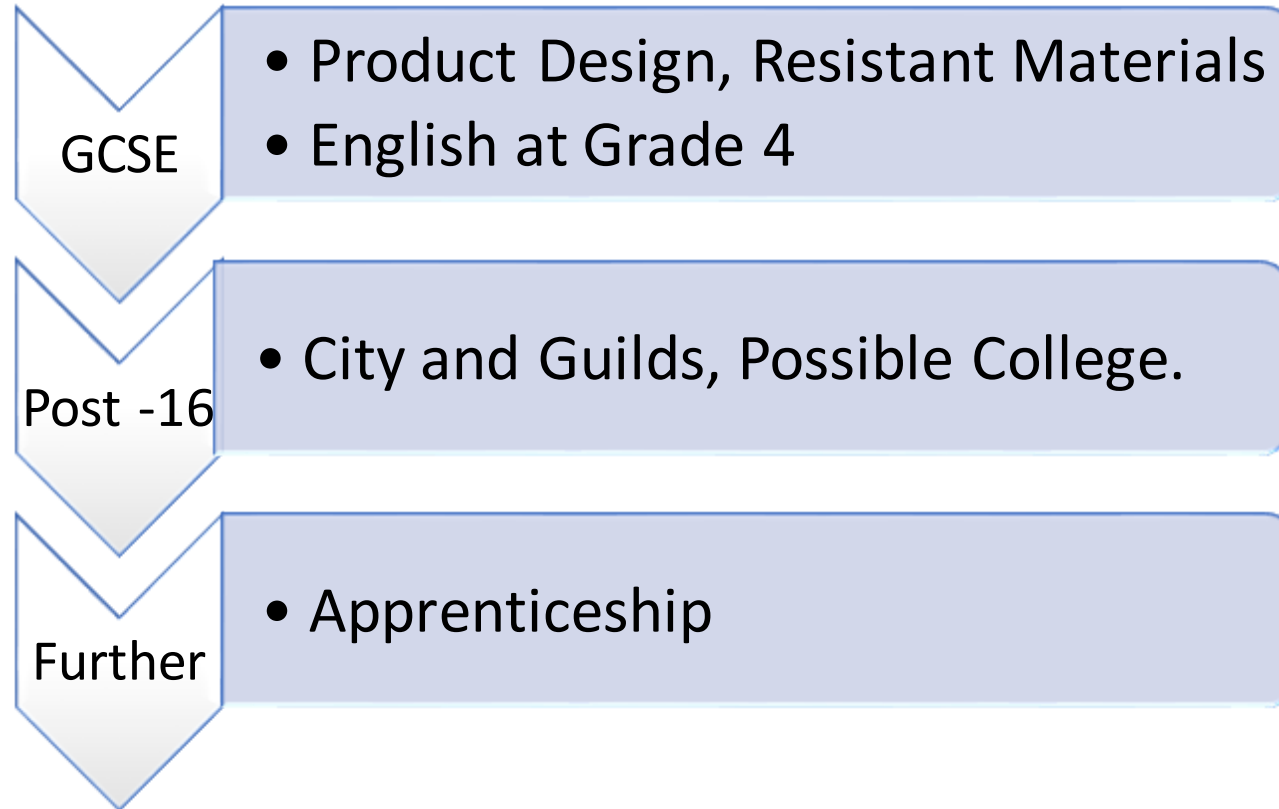


➤ How Options affect your Career

Entrepreneur



Construction





Guidance





Options Site



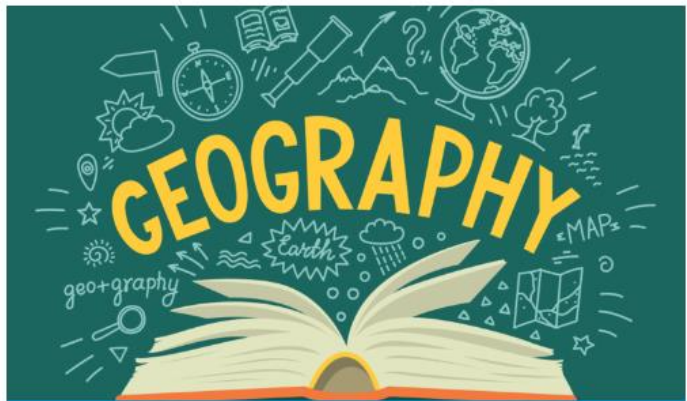
GCSE Separate Sciences



GCSE Business Studies



GCSE Computer Science



GCSE Geography



Options Site

Year 9 Options for Key Stage 4

Welcome to the WBCA Year 9 Options Site. This site has been prepared to provide information for students and their families about the courses available at Key Stage 4.

Here you will be able to explore:

- Curriculum information and advice on choosing subjects
- Subject information

In Years 10 & 11 there is a core programme of compulsory courses which all students will follow. The curriculum is then complemented by a range of subjects that students will be able to choose from, with guidance from teachers. It is very important to read all of the information carefully in order to make the right decisions.

There will be a very important Parents' Evening where all Year 9 students and their parents/carers are invited to meet with a senior member of staff to discuss Year 9 Options.



Information on Every Subject

GCSE Separate Sciences - FAQ

What will I learn?



The content covered in each of the three courses is outlined below:

GCSE Biology

Cells and organisation	Disease and bioenergetics	Biological responses	Genetics and reproduction	Ecology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cell structure and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicable disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The human nervous system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reproduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adaptations, interdependence and competition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cell division	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preventing and treating disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hormonal coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Variation and evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organising and ecosystem
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organisation and the digestive system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-communicable disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Homeostasis in action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Genetics and evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biodiversity and ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organising plants and animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PhotosynthesisRespiration			

Advice



- Consider pathways which will be complimentary with future ambition.
- Think about subjects which have coursework compared to those who have more exams. Design has a big coursework element, Triple Science is 6 exams.
- If students are not sure go for a solid academic base.
- Some specialisms now will help you decide if it is the career you really want to embark on.
- Don't allow them to pick subjects because your friends are in them or because of a particular teacher. Staff change and most subjects have multiple groups.



➤ Things you need to know.

- All students must be in Education until 18.
- English and Maths GCSE have compulsory retakes for anyone not gaining a 4.
- GCSE grades make a big difference to University entries and Job Applications.
- In order to do well, student will need to put in effort, attend study support and revise, you will do poorly if you do not. This is a partnership but if students are not working as hard as their teachers then they will not succeed. Families, you have an important role in making students do the work.
- Students who secured one grade higher than their counterparts across nine subjects are likely to earn on average £207,000 more in their lifetime.



Next Steps

- Visit the stands to find out more about subjects and talk to the staff.
- Think carefully about your choices and discuss them as a family.
- Make an appointment to speak to someone if you need advice and guidance.
- Talk to individual staff or teachers if necessary before making your decision.
- Make sure you hand in your sheet by the deadline which will be straight after the Easter holidays
- Feel free to write a note to us on the sheet if there is a combination of subjects that doesn't seem possible. Tell us what you would like to do and we will help if we can.

Oversubscription

- Where a class is oversubscribed we will:
- Firstly see if we have capacity for an additional class.
- Secondly apportion places based on our view of the most appropriate students for the class.
- Thirdly ask students if they wish to swap voluntarily.
- Fourthly decide by random allocation.
- Not all wishes are always fulfilled in this process which is why we ask for back up choices.

Questions

