

Career Detectives Workbook

Online Resource to support GCSE Option choices for Year 8/9



The Importance of Decision-Making

- Since there are thousands of different jobs to choose from you need to know you're making the right decisions for YOU!
- The subjects you choose to study can lead you in lots of different directions, so don't worry yourself if you don't know exactly what job you want to do just yet.
- It is helpful to know the qualifications and experience required for your dream job which can be tricky, however, the following activities have been created to give you an insight into the different pathways you can choose.



Career Detectives

Activity 1 – Clue Finder

In this activity you will learn about the different jobs that you could pursue, some of them you may have heard of and some of them may be new. Use this time to think about the wide range of job opportunities that are out here.

Study the following pictures clues to identify the matching the job/ career.

For example:
Arts Job



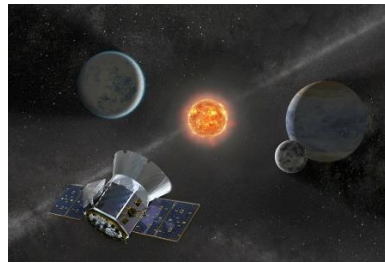
Answer: Film Camera Operator

Other answers could/ may include: Camera man, Film director, Film editor



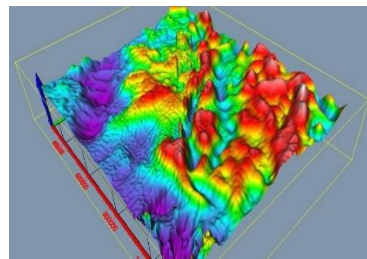
Career Detectives

1. S.T.E.M JOB 1



ANSWER:

2. S.T.E.M JOB 2



ANSWER:

3. BUSINESS JOB



ANSWER:



4. BUSINESS JOB 2



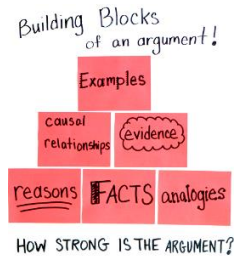
ANSWER:

5. ARTS JOB



ANSWER:

6. HUMANITIES JOB



ANSWER:



Activity 2 – Pathway Finder

1. Look carefully at each of the 6 Pathways on this worksheet.
2. Each of the stages in the images shows part of the career pathways for one of the 6 jobs you have just identified.
3. Read through the stages carefully and pick which job matches the pathway provided.
4. Write your answer below the Career Pathway

For Example:



Career Pathway No. 1

Each of the stages below shows part of the career pathway for one of the eight jobs that you have just identified. Read through the stages carefully and record the number on this sheet next to the job that you think it matches.



School:

GCSE subjects could include Art, Photography and Computer Science

Age:

14-16

Qualification:

GCSE's



College:

A Levels or BTEC in Media or Photography

Age:

16-18

Qualification: A Level or BTEC



University:

Not necessary but many choose to study Film Photography, Moving Image Production or Editing

Age:

18+

Qualification:

Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

- To gain work on film or TV projects you must have lots of experience and be able to provide a 'show reel' of your work
- Postgraduate study is not necessary but many choose to complete a Masters in Cinematography

Age:

21+

Qualification:

Post-Graduate

Answer: ARTS JOB 1 – Film Camera Operator



Career Pathway Number 1



School:

GCSE subjects could include Humanities subjects

Age:
14-16

Qualification:
GCSE's



College:

A Levels or BTEC in humanities and social science subjects – but universities accept a wide range of subjects

Age:
16-18

Qualification:
A Level or BTEC



University:

A Degree in Law (LLB) is required

Age:
18+

Qualification:
Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

After completing a Law degree, trainees will work full time as barristers or solicitors in their chosen field e.g. family, business, property, human rights, before 'qualifying for the bar'

- Masters and PhD in Law are not necessary but are available

Age:
21+

Qualification:
Post-Graduate

Career Pathway Number 2



School:

GCSE subjects include Music and possibly languages

Age:
14-16

Qualification:
GCSE's



College:

A Levels or BTEC in Music

Age:
16-18

Qualification:
A Level or BTEC



University:

Degree in Music – classical or contemporary

Age:
18+

Qualification:
Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

- MA in Music/Conducting/Musical Theory
- A PhD isn't necessary but many choose to complete one
- The ability to speak other languages is very desirable so foreign study is useful

Age:
21+

Qualification:
Post-Graduate

Answer.....

Answer.....



Career Pathway Number 3



School:

GCSE subjects include Sports and Business

Age:

14-16

Qualification:

GCSE's



College:

A Levels or BTEC in Sports and or Business

Age:

16-18

Qualification:

A Level or BTEC



University:

Degree in Business, Sports Management, Coaching or Sports Development

Age:

18+

Qualification:

Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

- Extensive work experience with teams or individuals
- Postgraduate isn't normally required but some professionals choose to do a Masters in Business (MBA)

Age:

21+

Qualification:

Post-Graduate

Answer.....

Career Pathway Number 4



School:

GCSE subjects include separate sciences - Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Maths

Age:

14-16

Qualification:

GCSE's



College:

A Level Maths and Physics, or BTEC Engineering

Age:

16-18

Qualification:

A Level or BTEC



University:

Engineering degree in Mechanical, Manufacturing, Aerospace or Aeronautics

Age:

18+

Qualification:

Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

Masters (MSc/MEng) in Engineering. A PhD may also be required which can take up to 7 years

Age:

21+

Qualification:

Post-Graduate

Answer.....



Career Pathway Number 5



School:

GCSE subjects include Maths and Business

Age:

14-16

Qualification:

GCSE's



College:

A Levels or BTEC in Business and possibly Maths

Age:

16-18

Qualification:

A Level or BTEC



University:

Degree in Business, Finance, Economics or Banking

Age:

18+

Qualification:

Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

- Extensive work experience
- Postgraduate isn't normally required but some professionals choose to do a Masters in Business (MBA)

Age:

21+

Qualification:

Post-Graduate

Answer.....

Career Pathway Number 6



School:

GCSE subjects include separate sciences - Chemistry, Physics, Biology

Age:

14-16

Qualification:

GCSE's



College:

A Level Chemistry and Biology and if available Geology or Archaeology

Age:

16-18

Qualification:

A Level or BTEC



University:

Degree in Bioscience or Geology

Age:

18+

Qualification:

Degree



Postgraduate/Other Training:

Masters (MSc) in Palaeontology or Geo Science. A PhD may also be required which can take up to 7 years

Age:

21+

Qualification:

Post-Graduate

Answer.....



ACTIVITY 3 – Research Task

Now it is your turn to start researching a job or subject that you love, to help you figure out what pathway you need to take/ what GCSE options may help you get there.

- Look at the ‘job families’ around your favourite subjects
- Find out what qualifications and experience they require
- Start thinking about university
- Speak to your subject teachers/ career advisors/ parents & carers
- **BUT most of all think about the subjects you ENJOY MOST, you’re GOOD AT & you’re willing to work HARD at.**

Here are some links to get you started:

‘Thinking about GCSE options’ Outreach Blog: <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/news/thinking-about-gcse-options?list=11934>

UCAS Job Families: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcse/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs>

BITESIZE Careers: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

GCSE Choices & Links to University: <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university>

Career Pilot: <https://careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects>

Use the following page to share your research



Collect a bank of your thoughts and ideas from your research about the job families that have interested you. Now using the space below create a spider diagram of your findings. Include things like: Jobs that interested you, qualifications, skills and experience needed for those jobs, pathways you could take to get those jobs etc.

