

## Answers

**1. Some GCSEs don't have any written work FALSE**

Even subjects that in year 7 and 8 that have no written work such as Art, Design and PE will have some form of written work in it at GCSE. It's always good to ask your teachers about this before you choose a subject.

**2. There are easy GCSEs FALSE**

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as an easy GCSE. They are designed to stretch you to the best of your abilities. However, if you choose a subject that you really enjoy, you are good at or interested in; it will definitely feel easier than picking a subject that you don't like.

**3. My GCSE choices will affect the jobs that I will be able to do in the future FALSE**

GCSE options don't bind you to anything in your future! Most career pathways will need you to have English Language and Maths at level 4 and above alongside 3 other subjects. However, for some college courses or apprenticeships they may need you to have a certain subject to progress on to some courses.

**4. GCSEs won't help me to get into university FALSE**

Obviously when applying to university we look at your A-Levels, BTEC or other level 3 qualifications that you have studied at college or Sixth Form but we also look at your GCSEs. We look that you have at least 5 GCSEs at Level 4 (grade C) and above to include Maths and English Language. This shows us that you have a good knowledge base to help you with your work at university.

**5. I have to study Maths, English and Science at GCSE TRUE**

All of these subjects are an essential part of everyday life. Maths gives you skills such as problem solving and attention to detail, English will help your communication skills and imagination and science will enhance your curiosity, research skills and independence. Although there won't be lots of trigonometry problems every day; you will need skills from each of these subjects in all aspects of your adult life.

**6. The best GCSEs to take are the ones that my friends are doing too FALSE**

GCSEs are a way for you to achieve your full potential. Following your friends may not play to your strengths, which will often reflect in your grades. It's always best to choose subjects that you enjoy and are good at; that way you will get the best marks for you. Don't forget there is no guarantee that you will be in the same class as your friends anyway and with a more focused timetable you will





be spending a lot of time studying towards subjects that you have chosen. If you choose a subject that you don't have an interest in, then this will feel like the longest two years of your life and this may show in the grades that you come out with.

**7. It's a good idea to play to my strengths when choosing my GCSEs TRUE**

Definitely! You should choose GCSEs that you have a real interest in or you are really good at. This way you will enjoy the course and it will hopefully reflect in your results. Your strengths could refer to the subjects that you take and/or the type of assessments that are completed as part of your course. For example, if you panic in exams, you may want to opt for some courses that have some coursework or practical assessments too.

**8. Speaking to people who know me like my teachers, parents/carers or careers advisers can help me to make my decision TRUE**

When choosing your GCSEs, it can sometime feel overwhelming as it is often the first time in your education where you get a say in what you can study. Using the people who know you best such as your parents/carers and teachers can help as they may be able to see your strengths and abilities and how they may help each subject. Teachers are always good people to ask about the content of each subject too, so don't be afraid to ask!

**9. I will need GCSE's in Maths and English Language at grade 4 or above to progress onto College, Sixth Form, an Apprenticeship or university TRUE**

Every pathway that you will progress on to from GCSE will ask for a minimum of Maths and English Language at Level 4 (Grade C) and above. This is to ensure that you can cope with the level of work involved in things like A Levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships. You can re-sit these subjects if you don't achieve a Level 4 or above, however the best advice would be that if you do struggle with any of these subjects, make sure that you ask for help with them. Although you may feel nervous about doing this, it will definitely help you in the long run. There is no shame in asking for help.

**10. To get on to some courses at College/Sixth Form, and some apprenticeships I will need a specific subject at GCSE TRUE**

Some courses may ask you for specific subjects at GCSE, so if you know what you would like to do after GCSEs either at college or an apprenticeship for example, it may be best to work backwards from there when choosing your GCSEs. For example, if you wanted to study Geography at college, you may need to have a GCSE in Geography in order to get on to that course, alongside your English Language and Maths.

