

Welcome to Year 10 pupils' and parents'



GCSE Subject Choices

December 2023

Year 10 :-
Looking to the future

Your Choices
Your Future



Some basic facts!

- Year 10 is busy
- Year 10 requires decision making

The choices made now,
COUNT!



"I'm bringing you into the decision-making process, Ruggles. Here — flip this coin."

Perhaps you already know what you want to be?



be?



The vast majority of you
will not!

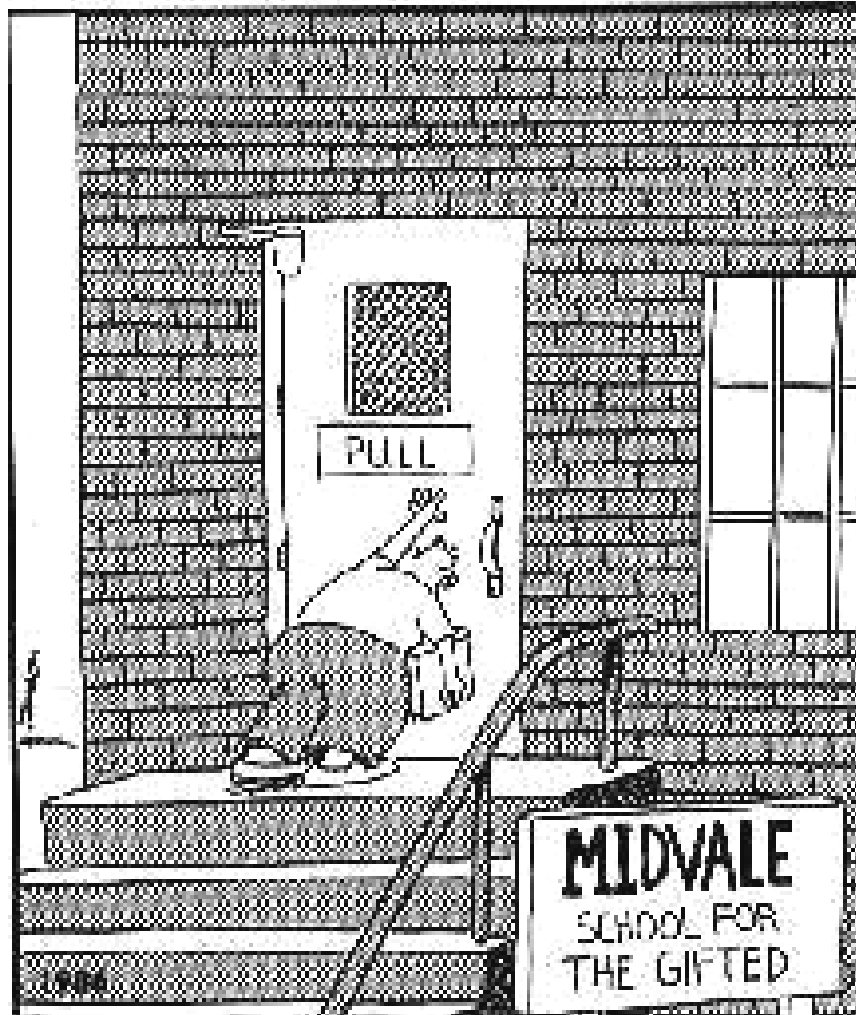


You are a normal teenager if...

- you have **no** idea about your career.
- you are much more interested in: football/hockey/rugby, music or your plans for the weekend.



Keeping doors open



Some further facts.....

- The majority of our pupils go on to University
- GCSE choices have an impact on University courses.



BUT...

Universities change their entrance requirements.

Competitive Courses/Uni's

- **Medicine**
- **Dentistry**
- **Pharmacy**
- **Veterinary Medicine**
- **Law**
- **Accounting**
- **Oxford**
- **Cambridge**
- **St Andrew's**
- **Trinity/UCD**

Strong GCSEs are essential!

Competitive Courses – what GCSEs do I need...and at what standard?

Medicine/Dentistry

5 A*s and 4 As and you MUST do all 3 Sciences for GCSE

(A*AA/ AAAa)

Pharmacy

4 – 5 As with Bs (AAB –A2)

Law

5 As with Bs (AAA - A2)

Accounting

4 As with Bs (AAB - A2)

Actuarial Science

A's and B's (A*AA/ AAAa)

What subjects at A Level will I need?

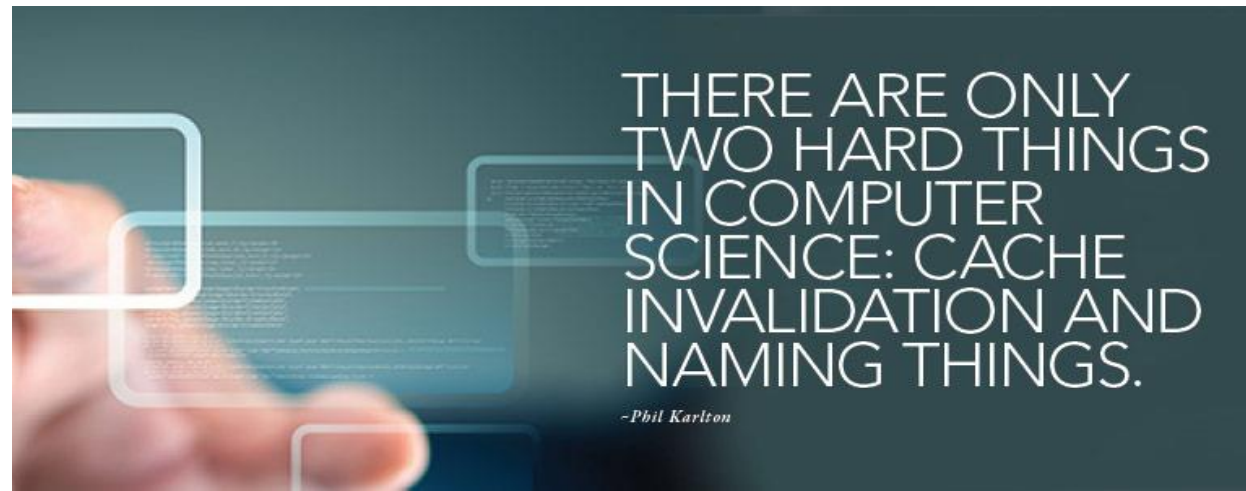
Engineering

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Technology



Computing Science

- Mathematics
 - ICT/DT
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
- } useful



What subjects at A level will I need?



10 out of 9
Accountants
can't count.

Product Design

- Mathematics
- Technology
- Science/Physics

Finance/Accounting

- Mathematics

Physiotherapy

- Grade B from Maths/
Science

Architecture

- Mathematics
- Art
- Physics

Sport & Exercise Science

- Grade A from a
Science/PE/Maths

What A LEVEL subjects will I need?

Anatomy: Chemistry, Biology.

Biomedical Science: Chemistry, Biology.

Forensic Science: Chemistry, Biology

Genetics: Chemistry, Biology.

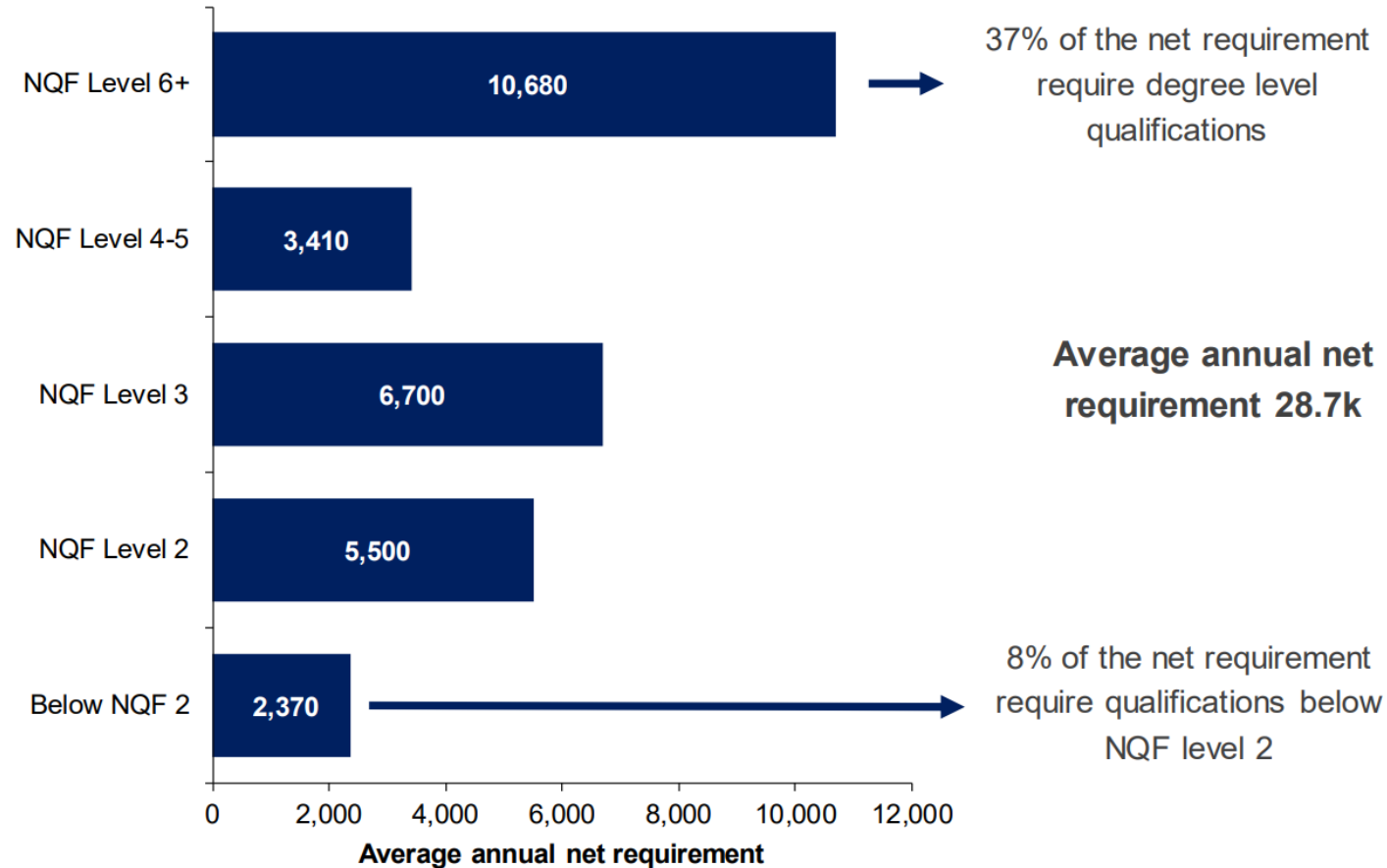
Zoology: Chemistry, Biology.





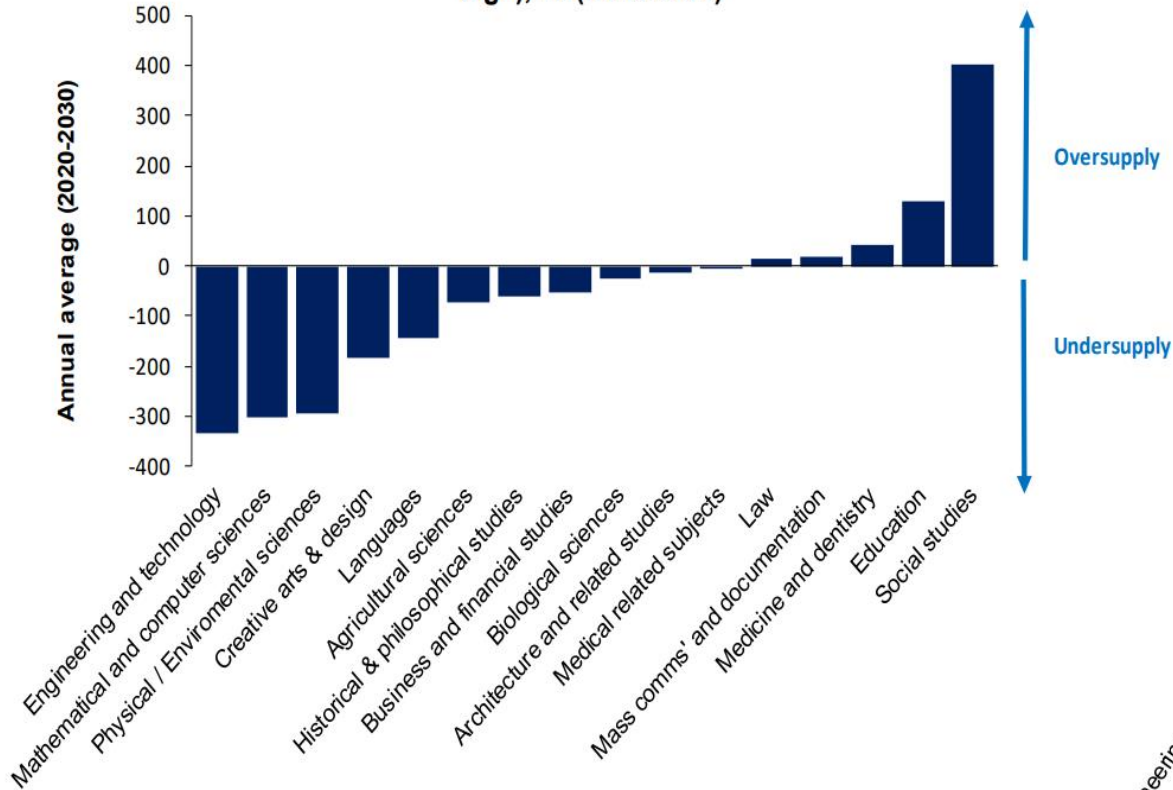
Demand from education and migration

Average annual net requirement from education and migration by qualification (NQF), NI, (2020-2030)

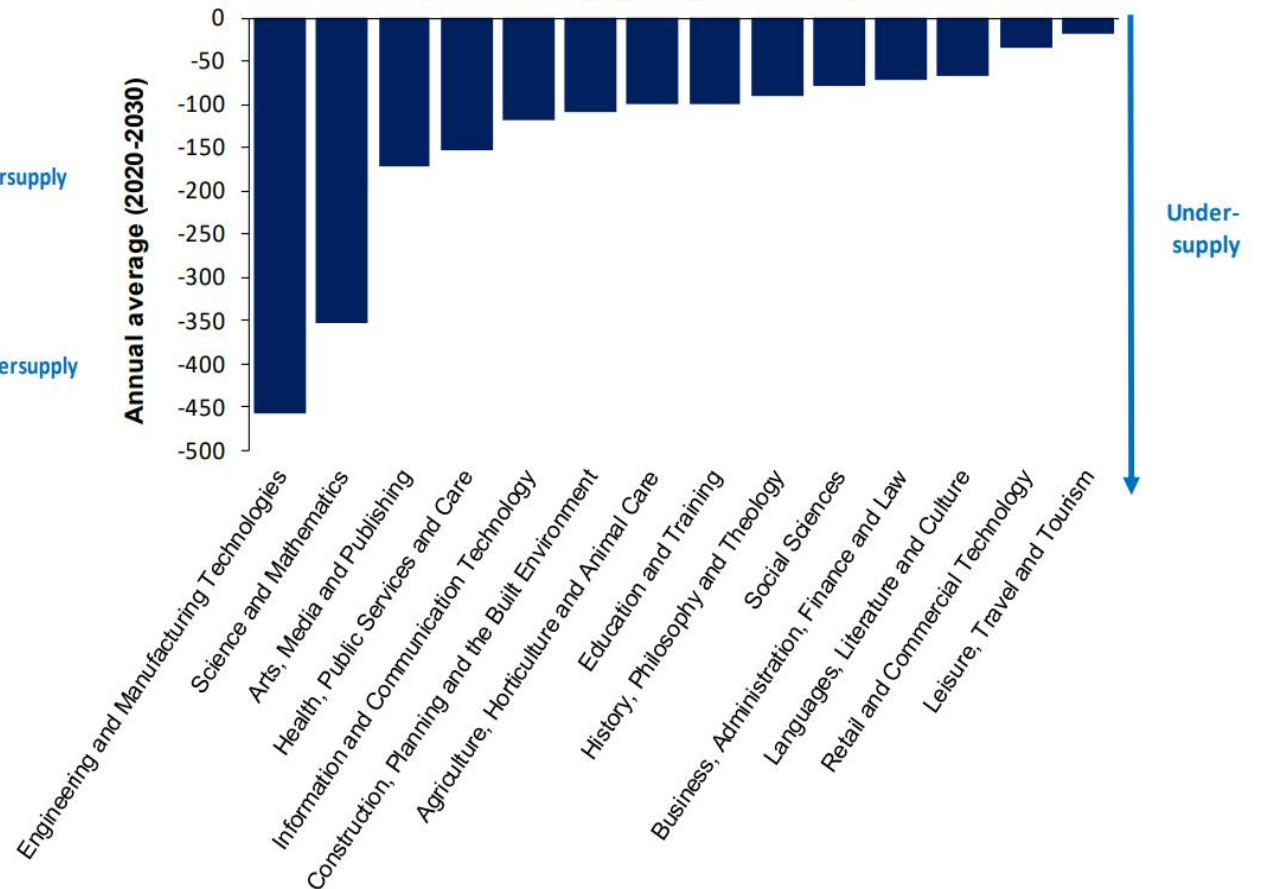


Subject balances

Annual average effective supply gap by NQF level 6+ subject (JACS, 1-digit), NI (2020-2030)



Annual average effective supply gap by NQF level 4-5 subject (SSAs, 1-digit), NI (2020-2030)



Source: HESA, UUEPC analysis

Source: DfE, UUEPC analysis

A word about STEM / STEAM



STEM

Science

Technology

Engineering

Arts

Mathematics

What subjects will I
DEFINITELY need
no matter what?

What subjects will I DEFINITELY need
no matter what?

ENGLISH

MATHEMATICS

The point is...

**To GCSE...and
beyond!!**



Choice of option subjects

What happens now?



Carrickfergus Grammar School

Key Stage 4

Initial Choice of Option subjects

There are COMPULSORY core subjects, for example English Language & Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies which everyone MUST do, then there are OPTIONAL subjects which you choose from a list.

This list includes

Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Digital Technology, Drama, French, Geography, H.E Child Development, H.E Food and Nutrition, History, Music, P.E. (Academic), Physics, Spanish, Technology.

Also on the Curriculum

- Physical Education (General)
- Games
- Careers Education & Learning for Life and Work containing;
 - Employability
 - Citizenship
 - Personal Development

To help us plan your curriculum we want you to indicate the five choices you would make from the list.

We **cannot guarantee** that we will be able to provide all possible combinations of subjects but will use your initial choices to guide us in timetabling.

The eventual option blocks will be drawn up to accommodate the greatest number of pupils on the basis of responses in this initial choice.

Please note that:

- Class sizes in option subjects will normally be 24 pupils.
- As far as possible, class sizes in Technology, HE, Music and Art will be 20 pupils.
- Should classes be **oversubscribed then acceptance will be based on performance** in the subject to date or the rank order of Year 9 subject results (if the subject is not being currently studied).

- For PE, pupils must have appropriate current levels of participation in school sport.
- If you change your options, such changes can only be considered up to the point when classes are full. Subsequent requests for a change of options will be placed on a waiting list and will be dealt with on a strict first come, first served, basis should vacancies arise.
- Subjects with fewer than 12 pupils may be withdrawn.

- A group of pupils will be invited, based on their performance in the year 10 end of year Mathematics examination, to follow an accelerated Mathematics course. This will comprise sitting the GCSE Higher Mathematics exam in summer of Year 11 and GCSE Further Mathematics in summer of Year 12.

- The remaining pupils will follow a course in Higher Mathematics sitting a module in the summer of Year 11 and a module in the summer of Year 12.
- Pupils will be entered for either the M3 or M4 Module in Year 11. If you aspire to do A level Mathematics you must get an A at GCSE by completing the M4 & M8 Modules.

SUBJECT	TICK
Biology	
Chemistry	
Physics	✓
French	✓
Spanish	
Art	
Business Studies	✓
Digital Technology	
Drama	
Geography	✓
H.E Child Development	
H.E Food and Nutrition	
History	
Music	
P.E. (Academic)	
Technology	✓

Option Block example

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Chemistry	Biology	Business Studies	Art & Design	Biology
History	Chemistry	Chemistry	Biology	Chemistry
Music	French	French	Business Studies	Geography
P. E (Academic)	H. E. (Child Development)	Digital Technology	History	Drama
Physics	H. E. (Food & Nutrition)	Physics	Spanish	Physics
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Technology	
	Technology			

Option Block example

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Chemistry	Biology	Business Studies	Art & Design	Biology
History	Chemistry	Chemistry	Biology	Chemistry
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P. E (Academic)	H. E. (Child Development)	Digital Technology	History	Drama
Physics	H. E. (Food & Nutrition)	Physics	Spanish	Physics
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Technology	
	Technology			

In preparation for the process of choosing subjects we have:

- Ongoing careers advice in Employability classes/events. ✓
- The subject choice booklet, which each pupil will have received, giving GCSE course summaries. ✓
- Discussions in subject classes and a variety of talks – formal and informal – about choices and the subjects offered. ✓
- A talk regarding subject option blocks and how we timetable choices, attended by all Year 10 pupils. ✓

Now ...

- Discuss your subject choices with your parents, the appropriate teachers, family, friends and neighbours.
- Keep in mind possible university and career aspirations and investigate these careers and courses online

- It is OK to change your mind but come and talk to me, with a note from home, as soon as possible!



Careers Education

Supporting Subject Choice



Careers Education at CGS



Year 10 Employability - 1 period per cycle

Year 12 LLW – 1 period per cycle

Year 13 & Year 14 LLW - 1 period per cycle
(Includes Work Experience)

What do we Cover?

- Personal Career Plans
- Options for GCSEs & Post 16
- Skills/ Qualities/ Transferable Skills
- Enterprise & Entrepreneurship
- Labour Market Information
- Health & Safety in the Workplace
- Recruitment & Selection
- University Applications
- Alternative Pathways including Apprenticeships/ The Forces/ Gap Year/ Employment

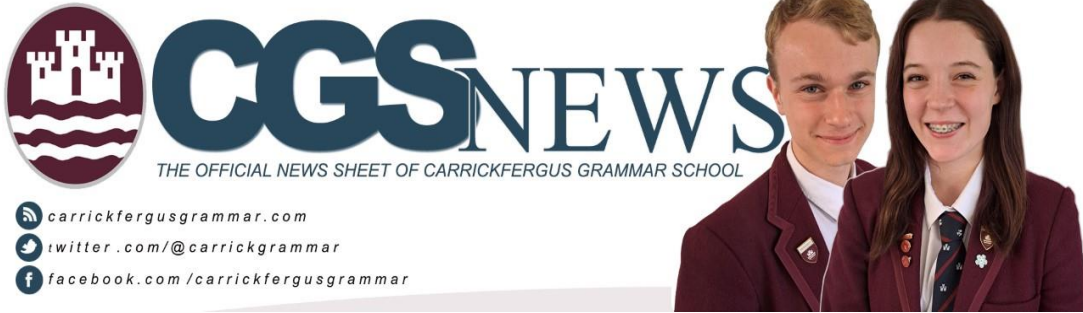


Work Related Learning

- Young Enterprise Events
- Interview Skills Day
- Careers Conventions
- Open Days
- Industrial Visits
- Guest Speakers
- Work Experience



Resources



- Careers Area
- Guidance Interviews
- Internet
- VLE (Google Classroom)
- Notice Boards
- Emails
- Newsletter
- Xello

Common Questions



1. Should I base GCSE options on what I'm good at?
2. Should I base GCSE options on what I enjoy?
3. Should I choose a GCSE subject because my friends are doing it?
4. Should money and future salary be a factor when choosing GCSE options?
5. Whose advice should I listen to?
6. Are my A'Level choices affected by the GCSE choices I make now?
7. Should I think about how courses are marked/ assessed?
8. The Content
9. Entry Requirements for courses/ jobs
10. Job Opportunities

**Should I base GCSE
Options on what I'm
good at?**



**Should I base GCSE
Options on what I
enjoy?**

Should I choose a GCSE subject because my friend is doing it?



Should I choose a GCSE subject because I like the teacher?

**Should money
and future salary
be a factor when
choosing GCSE's?**



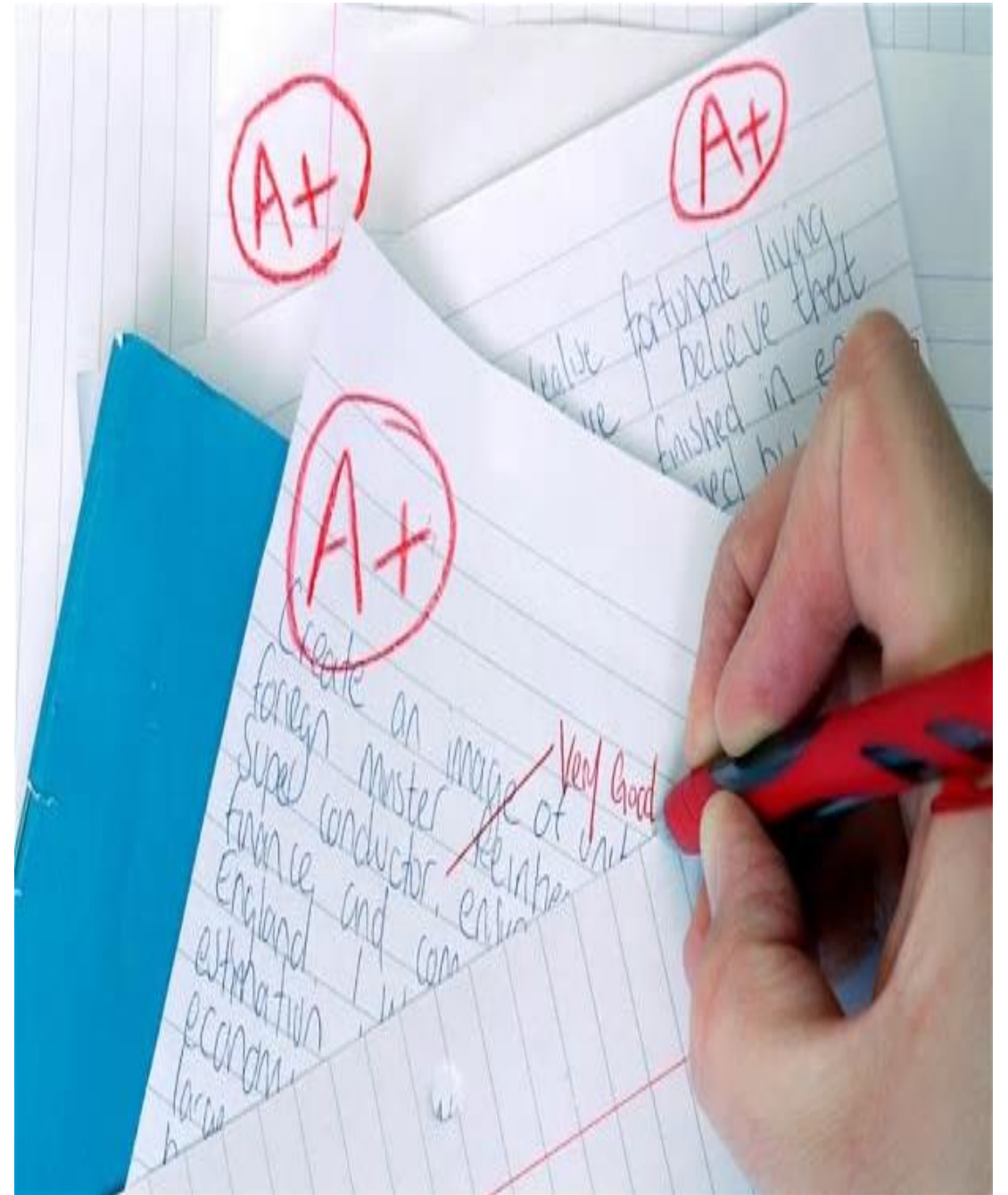
**Whose advice should I
listen to when choosing
my subjects?**



What subjects do I need?

Are my A' Level choices affected by the GCSE choices I make now?

Should I think about how courses are assessed?





***If unsure, keep options broad,
balanced and open***

Useful Web sites

www.indirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers

www.prospects.ac.uk

www.ucas.com

www.cao.ie

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

www.qub.ac.uk

www.ulster.ac.uk

www.stran.ac.uk

www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk

www.cafre.ac.uk

www.nrc.ac.uk

www.belfastmet.ac.uk