

Post 16 and Post 18 choices by Muzammil Biological Sciences student

My GCSEs

The GCSEs I picked were Triple Science, Geography and French (as well as the mandatory subjects, so: English Literature and Language, Mathematics and Religious Education). The reason why I picked Triple Science was that, since the start of secondary school, it had always been a subject I had: thoroughly enjoyed, been engaged in, read around and excelled in so it was almost a no-brainer when it came to choosing it.



I chose Geography for two reasons. The first was that, the way my secondary school was arranged - the students who all picked Triple Science would be their own form group so I was friends with all of my science classmates since the start of my secondary school journey. Sticking together was essential for me because we all got along and rarely distracted each other. The second reason for me choosing Geography was because it was taught so well by the previous teacher I had and because of the interest he nurtured all those years ago, I knew I would love learning about it in much more detail in Years 10 and 11 (plus, we watched loads of David Attenborough documentaries – it was a very immersive experience)!



Est-ce que tu aimes le français?

Objectif: Can I give my opinion about school subjects?

Target:
By the end of this lesson I will be able to...

- Give simple opinions about school subjects.
- Give opinions (positive and negative) about school subjects.
- Give opinions (positive and negative) about school subjects using connectives
- Give opinions (positive and negative) about school subjects using connectives and justifications

Task: In pairs, create a mind map of all of the words that you already know that you may be able to use in today's lesson

Challenge: Add your opinion on these subjects e.g. J'adore le

Finally, I picked French because I believe it was mandatory to pick a Modern Foreign Language and because I was taught French since Year 7, I knew it would be easier to summate my previous knowledge as opposed to learning the basics of a new language at a late stage (Years 10 to 11).



instead. To my surprise, I learned quite a lot about myself through picking that subject and about human behaviour which helped me understand my own thinking and my parents' thinking better. At the end of my college journey, I can comfortably say it was my favourite subject!

Finally, I chose A-Level English Literature because I was just passionate from the start of secondary school about creative writing, so it would've been dishonest of me to not take up the subject at A-Level.

My influences

My influences would have to be my immediate family (my mum and eldest sister) and my secondary school friends. You see, your family only want the best for you but equally: the time they grew up in, and the time I grew up and now you're growing up in, they're two very different times. It is completely fine if your career goals are not in alignment with something that is traditional (a doctor, a teacher, an engineer etc), and if they are in-line with those fields then that is okay also!

HELP??!!!

I found help from my teachers; they only want the best for you so if you have something on your mind about which next steps you want to take for your GCSEs then ask them! They'll happily sit with you and guide you to make the decision that is best for you. I also consulted the **career guidance counsellor** at my secondary school, and I also had **a teacher who mentored me** to make sure I was in the correct headspace and was mentally prepared for my future studies. Ask your teacher/head of house if they provide **these** services!

Resources can be found by the click of a button! Here are some I used at your age:

- for GCSE science students 'my GCSE science' is an excellent resource, amazing and informative videos tailored to the exam board;
- for GCSE English, Mr Bruff's YouTube channel is the go-to place. He really helped me to achieve the best grades, as well as the efforts of my English teachers. Mr Bruff has videos on lots of areas of the GCSE English Literature and Language exams so he will have you covered!
- For GCSE Mathematics, I'd recommend Pixie Maths, a large online bank of exam questions on all topics mathematical so an amazing resource to practice things you're struggling with or want to brush up on.

As for GCSE subjects that will be the options (e.g. GCSE Business, Psychology, Sociology etc) you can choose from:

- ask your teachers!



- invest in a good revision guide/textbook (one with questions and quizzes to test your learning as you go along! When I was at secondary school, I found the CGP guides really helpful)
- YouTube is full of video series on practically all GCSE subjects so browse and you might find what you're looking for! If not start from the beginning – do not be afraid to ask your teachers! They're there for you!