

Year 13: What to expect

- As well as studying towards your exams you will also need to make some very important decisions during the year.
- It's essential you examine your options and are clear about the pros and cons of the choices you make as they will affect your future.
- **To help you make your decisions...**
- Look online and research your choices. Some useful websites to help you are:
 - [All about school leavers.co.uk](http://Allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk)
 - [Russell Group](http://RussellGroup)
 - [Which University: Making the jump to Year 13](http://WhichUniversity.com)
- If you are unsure of what to do next, seek advice by speaking to careers advisers, parents, teachers, friends and siblings.

- Once you have finished college/sixth form you will have achieved a Level 3 qualification.
- If you choose to advance onto Higher Education you will gain qualifications at Level 4 or above.
- The image on the next slide explains what education levels correspond to GCSEs, A-levels, BTECs degrees and apprenticeships.

| | | LEVEL | | | | | |
|------------|---|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| UNIVERSITY | 8 | Doctorate PhD | | | | | |
| | 7 | Master's Degree MA, MSc, MPhil | | | | Apprenticeships Higher | Apprenticeships Degree |
| | 6 | Undergraduate Degree | | | | | |
| | 5 | | | Foundation Degree FdA, FdSc | | | HND |
| | 4 | | | HNC | | | |
| COLLEGE | 3 | A level | A2 | BTEC Nationals | | Apprenticeships Advanced | |
| | | | AS | | | | |
| SCHOOL | 2 | GCSE Grades A–C | | BTEC Firsts | | Apprenticeships Intermediate | |
| | 1 | GCSE Grades D–G | | | | | |

- Higher Education (HE) refers to studying after Year 13.
- If you wish to enter HE after Year 13, these are some of the degree options available to you:



Think about careers

- Before choosing a HE degree course - it's important to have a good idea of careers you are interested in.

- Ways in which you can learn more about careers:
 - By researching different jobs to see what they entail and how to get there.
 - By speaking to a careers adviser about areas you are interested in.
 - Gaining work experience in an industry you're interested in.
 - Exploring careers that are related to what you want to do next. You can use the Which? University [A-level Explorer](#) tool to do this.
 - Paying attention to what is happening in the labour market

- The labour market refers to the supply and demand for labour, in which employees provide the supply and employers the demand.
- Labour Market Information (LMI) is statistical data about what is happening in the work force.
- LMI can include information on employment trends and skills shortages at a local, national and international level.
- It's really important to keep up to date with what is happening in this area as this can help to influence your degree or career decisions.

Useful websites for following LMI:

- [Prospects:Labour Market Information](#)
- [Office for National Statistics: Employment and labour market](#)

Reasons to go to university

- You can study undergraduate degrees.
- Focus solely on a subject that you feel passionately about.
- Carry on studying if you don't feel ready for the world of work.
- Gain a specific degree in order to get the job you want.
- Choose a degree with wider career prospects if you are unsure of what you want to do next.
- Meet people from all walks of life.



Reasons to study abroad

- You can learn a new language or develop your current language skills.
 - It's an opportunity to explore another part of the world and learn about a new culture.
 - It may increase your employment prospects as you have experience of studying and living outside of the UK.
 - It can work out cheaper than university in the UK.
 - You can do both; some UK university courses offer a studying abroad option as part of their course.
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- Useful websites to learn more about this include:
 - [Ucas: Studying overseas](#)
 - [Fulbright Commission](#)

How to choose a degree course

How to choose a degree course:

- Go to university open and taster days to get a feel for subjects and different courses.
- Choose a course that you are passionate about or think you will enjoy.
- Check if the future career you're interested in requires certain subjects at a degree level.
- Research the entry requirements you will need for courses.
- Explore degree types: the standard honours degree, joint honours degree (two subjects) and sandwich degrees with work placements.
- Check how the course will be assessed and if this method suits you

Useful links:

- [What A-levels do you need for the degree you want to study?](#)
- [A-level Explorer](#)

How to choose a university

- Ensure that you visit as many potential universities as possible.
- Narrow down your options, think about what the most important aspects of your university choice are, for example, do you want a campus university with everything on site - accommodation, teaching, leisure? Or do you want to live off campus, or even at home?
- Check university rankings. You can learn more about different university ratings through: [Which? University's uni profiles search](#)
- Remember a top ranking university may not be the top ranking university for your subject.
- Think about your social life too, by looking into what student life universities have to offer such as clubs and societies.
- Find out more about uni life in popular cities by exploring the [Where to study section](#) at Which? University.

Can I afford to go to uni?

- Yes, you can by taking out student loans.
- **A tuition fee loan** covers the cost of annual tuition fees up to £9250. It's from the government and paid directly to your university.
- **A maintenance loan** covers living costs and you receive it at the start of each term
- Loans are repaid once you've finished or left your course and are earning more than £21,000 a year, £1,750 a month or £404 per week (until at least April 2021). Read [Which? University's Complete student finance guide](#)
- Apply early to receive your loan at the start of your course. If you change your mind about taking a loan you can cancel your application later on
Apply for student loans: [GOV.uk: Student finance](#)

What is UCAS?

- Ucas is the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service.
- It's role is to manage applications for universities.
- Students pay a fee to ucas to apply for a maximum of 5 universities and receive university offers via the ucas website.
- Students use ucas to confirm firm and insurance choices to their chosen university usually pending their results.
- After students receive their Year 13 grades, they can enter the clearing process through ucas which enables them to select another university if they haven't got the right grades or changed their minds.

The logo for UCAS, consisting of the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized as a red triangle pointing upwards, with its base forming the letter's shape.

What's a personal statement?

- A personal statement is your opportunity to sell yourself to your university in 4000 characters.
- Most universities only offer a limited number of interviews, so your initial impression is through your personal statement.



Tips for writing your personal statement:

- Start as early as possible.
- Create a bullet pointed list of all your positive attributes.
- Think of your qualities and skills that relate to the course you are applying for.
- Keep it original, and try to stand out from other applicants.
- After you have created your draft, ask either a teacher, careers adviser or parent to proofread it. Be prepared to create several drafts of your statement before you produce the final version.
- Include any extracurricular activities or work experience you have, for courses like medicine – work experience can be part of the entry requirements.
- It's important that you highlight how the skills or experience you have gained relate directly to the course you are applying for.
- Useful link: [Which? University Personal Statement tool](#)

Top revision tips

- Start revising early- don't cram it all in before your exams.
- Make sure you are revising in the best environment for you. Like the library or somewhere quiet where you can concentrate.
- Use past papers and online tests to revise.
- Use acronyms to help you to remember information easily.
- Create a revision timetable and stick to it.
- Approach subject tutors for help, if you need it.
- Keep reminding yourself of your end goal!

