

# CHOICES



**GCSE ADVICE**

**UNDERSTANDING CAREERS TALK**

**VOLUNTEERING**

**LEARNING ABOUT JOB ROLES**

**INSIDE:**

# WELCOME TO CHOICES

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS ACROSS  
WORCESTERSHIRE TO UNDERSTAND  
THEIR CAREER CHOICES.**

CHOICES IS A CAREERS AND ADVICE MAGAZINE THAT WILL HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE WIDE RANGE OF CAREER CHOICES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU ACROSS WORCESTERSHIRE AND SUPPORT YOU TO START PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE.

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
INSPIRING WORCESTERSHIRE CAREERS HUB**  
[WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK)



## ABOUT US...

### WHO ARE WE?

The Inspiring Worcestershire Careers Hub is part of a national initiative led by the Careers and Enterprise Company to support the delivery of high-quality careers education within educational establishments across Worcestershire.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

Our aim is to ensure that through our work with educational establishments across Worcestershire that every young person receives the information, advice and guidance they need to ensure they are fully prepared to enter the world of work.

### WHY DO WE DO IT?

We ensure that young people get high-quality careers guidance so that they can make informed choices about their future careers.

If young people don't get high-quality careers guidance then they may make the wrong choices and this could impact on their future careers but it would also affect Worcestershire's employers as they need young people with the right skills, qualifications, experience and attitude to ensure that their businesses thrive in the future.

We need to make sure that Worcestershire's economy grows so that there are jobs for all its residents and so that new, exciting companies are keen to invest in the county. Employers need young people who hold the right skills, qualifications and experience. Young people can then find the careers they want and do not have to leave the county.

# FINDING YOUR FUTURE CAREER...

Having your own solid careers plan is important because it provides a roadmap for your future, something to look forward to and work towards. This will then help you to make informed choices that will benefit your future career and keep you inspired throughout your time in education.

But how can you make choices about your future career when you have no idea what you want to do? Don't worry! It is really common for young people to be unsure about where they see themselves in the future, especially when asked what job they see themselves doing. You are not on your own in feeling confused. Luckily, there are lots of useful websites that can help you to decide what your dream career may be.

## WHY NOT TRY A CAREERS QUIZ?

Careers quizzes can be fun to complete and get you thinking about job roles you may never have even considered before; they will provide you with ideas that you can explore further. The buzz quiz is a fun, short quiz which analyses your personality to see which job roles and industries might suit you.  
<https://icould.com/buzz-quiz/>

Once you have an idea of the type of job you can see yourself doing in the future, it is important to understand how the subjects you study at school link to the skills required to pursue your chosen career. This will help you to decide which options you should take and make the right decisions throughout your education. The Brighter Futures website can provide you with an insight into how school subjects link directly to different industries.  
<https://www.adviza.org.uk/who-am-i/young-person/options-after-year-8-or-9>



# CHOOSING YOUR GCSE OPTIONS...

You have an idea of the type of job you would like to do when you are older, but how do you get there? Your GCSE subject options will be something that has probably been mentioned to you a few times, this is because the options you choose can help to build your future career, so it is important to make the best choices.

It may seem like there is a lot to think about and consider, but don't worry! Follow the 3 points below and you won't go wrong.

## SHOULD I BASE GCSE OPTIONS ON WHAT I'M GOOD AT?

It's worth including this as a factor when choosing your GCSEs. You're likely to enjoy the subjects you're good at. Being good at a particular area might help you manage your GCSE workload too, because you'll be able to complete work more quickly and get good results. What's more, learning more about a subject you have a natural ability in might be useful when making career choices later down the line.

## SHOULD I CHOOSE A GCSE SUBJECT BECAUSE I LIKE THE TEACHER?

It's a tricky one, because a great teacher can inspire you to do your best in a subject. However, how much you like your teacher should not be one of the key factors when choosing your GCSE options. That inspirational teacher might leave school, after all. There's no point doing a subject just to impress your favourite teacher, either. They won't be in your life forever. The person you most need to impress is yourself, because you're the one making choices to make your future a better one!

## SHOULD I CHOOSE A GCSE SUBJECT BECAUSE MY FRIENDS ARE DOING IT?

It's better not to just choose a GCSE option because your friends are taking it. Doing different GCSEs shouldn't have any effect on your friendships – it will just mean you have lots to talk about when you're together at other times. Plus, there's a chance you'll make additional new friends in the subject you choose, too.

It's tough to choose your GCSE options, but you'll feel quite good about your final list of options once you've done it. And know that however impossible it might feel to make this big decision, you're not alone. Everyone finds it tough to choose their options, yet somehow it happens, and you can breathe a sigh of relief and move on.

Need more help? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p> watch the video and get more advice and support on how to choose your options

# VISIT WORCESTERSHIRE'S ONLINE CAREERS TOOL



**INFORMATION  
ABOUT EMPLOYERS  
IN WORCESTERSHIRE**



**SUPPORT FOR  
SCHOOLS**



**WORCESTERSHIRE'S  
LABOUR MARKET  
INFORMATION**



**SUPPORT FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE**



**CAREERS ADVICE**



**CAREERS EVENTS**



**INTERVIEW TIPS**



**SUPPORT FOR  
PARENTS**



**CAREER PATHWAYS**



# WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK

# CAREERS

## KEY WORDS



Quite often you will hear teachers, parents, friends- nearly everyone around you speaking about careers education using words that you may not be familiar with. Below you will find the most common terms used, and more importantly, what they actually mean!

### 'A' LEVELS

'A' levels are a qualification that is completed in 6th form or college, following the completion of GCSE's. Usually A levels are studied and taken in years 12 and 13. These are level 3 qualifications.

### APPRENTICESHIP

An apprenticeship is when you continue your education training while having a job, you are working which means you get paid to gain your qualification. Apprenticeships can be studied from level 2 right up to level 7. You can find out more about apprenticeships here [worcsapprenticeships.org.uk](http://worcsapprenticeships.org.uk)

### CAREER

A career is what you will have once you have finished education and started working. A career is the work a person chooses to do through life.

### CAREERS ADVISER

A Careers Adviser is a qualified person who can help you make decisions by giving you advice and guidance to support you with choosing your future career.

### COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

A FE college is for students over the age of 16 and usually mainly offers vocational qualifications but sometimes, A levels and professional qualifications can also be studied.

### CURRICULUM VITAE (C.V.)

A CV is a document which details your personal information, academic achievements and work history. Employers often want to see your CV when you apply for a job.

### DEGREE

An academic degree is a qualification awarded to students upon successful completion of a course of study in higher education, usually at a college or university. Degrees are studied at level 6, a master's degree is studied at level 7 and can be studied following the completion of a level 6 degree.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Employability skills are the skills that employers look for when they are searching for someone to do a job. Skills may differ depending on the career that you are interested in, but all employers will want their employees to have certain skills which include: honesty, time management, good communication and reliability.

### FURTHER EDUCATION

Further Education (FE) refers to educational study for young people who are over the age of 16. Everyone must study FE until they are 18. This can be 'A' levels, a vocational qualification or an apprenticeship.

### GCSES

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. These are national exams taken in Year 11.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education is academic education after the age of 18. This includes University.

### STEM

STEM stands for Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Technology, Engineering and Maths. STEM is usually used when talking about careers in engineering, construction and manufacturing.

### TRAINEESHIP

A traineeship is a course with work experience that gets a young person ready for work or an apprenticeship. It can last up to 6 months and upon completion can lead to an apprenticeship.

### VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Vocational qualifications are practical qualifications that relate to a specific job or career sector. Unlike more academic courses like A-levels, they combine a mix of theory and practical learning and you'll probably do some work experience too.

### UNIVERSITY

A university is a large education provider, where students can both study for a degree and do research. A student must finish secondary school before attending a university. Universities offer several levels of degrees. This can be Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), undergraduate degrees (BA/BSc etc.), postgraduate degrees, also known as masters (MA/MSc etc.) and doctorates. You need certain qualifications to attend university. You can find out more here [www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/thinking-about-uni](http://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/thinking-about-uni)

# WHERE WILL VOLUNTEERING TAKE YOU?



## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING? WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING MEAN?

Volunteering is when you do work but do not get paid. It could be helping in a club such as Brownies or Cubs, helping children at sporting clubs, gardening, babysitting. There are lots of opportunities and volunteering can really help with developing those all-important employability skills that employers are looking for.

The types of skills that volunteering can help you develop are:

### 1. COMMUNICATION

Most volunteer roles will mean that you work with other people. Whether that be working with fellow volunteers or members of the public, you are sure to work on your communication skills. By working with other people, you are learning how to write and/or speak to other people in a clear way.

#### HOW IS THIS AN EMPLOYABILITY SKILL?

Communication is key! It is important to develop this skill because many jobs require you to work with other people, give presentations, as well as express yourself in writing. This skill is applicable to practically every job – it just so happens to also be one of the most common skills that you build as a volunteer.

### 2. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

Interpersonal skills develop alongside communication skills. By working with others and/or the public, you are learning how to work in a team, or even how to take on a leadership role.

#### HOW IS THIS AN EMPLOYABILITY SKILL?

Being able to work in a team is an asset to many employers. It is important that you learn how to work in a team – whether you are a team player or playing the role of team captain.

### 3. TIME MANAGEMENT

As a volunteer, you will find that you must treat your volunteer role(s) like a job. You will need to be there on time and be reliable.

#### HOW IS THIS AN EMPLOYABILITY SKILL?

Being able to manage your time is something that many employers look for. It shows that you can plan and get things done.

As well as being a great way to give something back to the community, volunteering can be a helpful way of boosting your employability. For instance, doing voluntary work during your free time can show potential employers that not only are you motivated but you also have initiative. Whatever you do, you will be faced with problems and challenges at some stage – all of which allow you to develop your practical skills as well as your problem-solving and creative thinking skills.

If you volunteer with an organisation that places you in direct contact with members of the public, the experience will give you plenty of opportunities to develop your communication skills. You will meet lots of new people. Working with lots of different people is a chance for you to become more flexible and adaptable, as well as helping you to improve your ability to work towards common goals. And there's every chance that someone you meet while volunteering may become a future employer.

Don't forget- if you do any volunteering, make sure it is added to your CV, you may not have a CV at the moment but when you begin to create one, any volunteering is a great addition. You can highlight skills you have learnt and challenges you faced during your time volunteering; as well as how you

overcame them. Even better, point to specific events – such as the time you organised a huge fundraiser, volunteered at a soup kitchen, or contacted people for donations.

Keen to find volunteering opportunities? Visit [https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20002/community\\_volunteering\\_and\\_act\\_local/994/volunteering](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20002/community_volunteering_and_act_local/994/volunteering)

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities are those additional activities that you choose to do outside of your school lessons. This could be playing a sport, learning to play an instrument, dance classes, going to a robotics club, going to Sea Scouts, Guides or another national club like Army Cadets. All these things can help you when you begin looking for jobs or applying for your next educational steps. Whichever extra-curricular activities you choose you will be picking up employability skills. Don't forget, your school will most likely offer some extra-curricular activities, so speak to a teacher to find out more.

Top Tip- employability skills can also really help you when you are applying for your post 16 options, the more you have done in your younger years, the more experience you will have gained which will help you to stand out against other candidates. It is never too early to start!



**SKILLS** YOU  
MIGHT NOT  
KNOW YOU HAD.

**When it comes to your career, you might not know what the future holds, but one thing is certain: whatever that future looks like, if you can build and develop a personal treasure chest of skills, it will serve you well throughout your life.**

You already have more skills and qualities than perhaps you even know. Below is a list of 10 important personal skills and qualities that you may well recognise in yourself. They are core personal qualities and skills that any employer in the world would recognise and value. Think of them as 'portable skills.' They are, quite simply, skills which you can apply throughout your life and to many different job roles. The more of these you have, or can acquire, the better your chances of finding work and being employable.

### 1. TRUSTWORTHINESS

Your future success depends on the trust that others feel comfortable placing on you. Don't forget this. Your personal brand goes with you from place to place and job to job and your personal reputation is key to your future success. Can you be trusted? Do you demonstrate being trustworthy? When has someone shown their trust in you? What did that look like? Were you

left in charge of someone or something?

There are many ways that being trusted plays out - but just think about it for a minute, how many ways are you trusted by those close and around you?

### 2. COMPASSION

Compassion is an important trait to have in the world we live in - showing understanding for others, trying to better understand the views and lifestyles of others, being less judgemental of others and being more compassionate. Empathy and compassion are qualities that translate into personal skills. Think about how understanding you have been in your past towards others and how you can continue to be mindful of this.

### 3. PATIENCE

You need patience to learn. You need patience to improve and become the best you can be. Even those you think of as an overnight success, usually aren't. They would have worked hard, prepared, learned and then executed their skill or talent. Demonstrating patience can be as obvious as how you listen and wait your turn but it is also what you use to wait for the right moment - the right moment to

speak, even the right moment to make that choice when gaming. How do you show patience in your life?

### 4. DETERMINATION

Whatever challenges you may face, a determined attitude is a very strong weapon to overcome them.

We aren't talking about blind optimism or misplaced confidence; we are talking about facing tasks and challenges with a determined approach to that task and challenge. Think about what you've done in the past or are currently doing that may not even have happened without your determination.

### 5. RESPONSIBILITY

Life needs us to be responsible - it starts with us being responsible for our own actions and develops into our responsibilities at home, work, and through sports and hobbies.

Being able to take on responsibility and to be able to thrive with this responsibility is a skill which can be taken for granted. Think about how much responsibility you have and continue to have in your life - can you be relied on to do certain jobs and tasks? Do you get your work and chores done; do you think you do a good job? The more others

rely on you the more responsibility you will gain. This is not for everyone; many do not want too many responsibilities – it's about what works for each of us as individuals.

## 6. RELIABILITY

Can you be relied on? If a friend asked you to be somewhere at a certain time for a good reason, would you be there? When you wake up not feeling great and you have something to do or somewhere to go what do you do? Do you do your best and crack on with what's needed, or do you think to yourself someone else can deal with it?

Being reliable is like being trustworthy – others are choosing you to help them, support them, be there for them. Does this sound like you?

## 7. INQUISITIVENESS

It's important to ask questions in life, without over-analysing every thought or action you may have or do. We can't learn without asking the questions. We can't achieve goals without answers to questions.

Progression of many kinds comes from being inquisitive – it's how we learn and improve. The 'why?' question must be one of the most popular questions of all time... and one of the most necessary.

Be brave to question things that you don't understand – it is a strength not a weakness. Are you an inquisitive kind of person?

## 8. COMMUNICATION

Young people have experience of communicating in so many different ways and in juggling conversations, do you talk to friends when you are gaming together whilst texting or on social media with your other friends? This type of communication is complex. Think about how you communicate with your friends, family and carers. Do you just do it without thinking? Can you speak to people of all different ages? Can you have a conversation with people you don't know that well? These are all important communication skills.

## 9. THOUGHTFULNESS

Are you impulsive or are you thoughtful? Do you do stuff without thinking, using instinct or because you just feel it's the right thing to do? Do you stop and think through things before you do them? The answer is probably a bit of both. That's ok and totally normal!

Taking time to think about stuff can be difficult, so we must make that time. It's about balance, but it's important to recognise that when faced

with a problem then we must be prepared to think our way around it. Problem solving is a great skill to have – do you think about how things could be better? Do you think about how you could do things better? These are signs of thinking and planning, good skills that will always be in demand.

## 10. GENEROSITY

Being generous with your time and being generous with your understanding are incredibly important skills. It's about giving time, thought and care for others around you in your life. People like spending time with people who have a generous manner and give them the time to better understand, help and share experiences. Do you have this skill?

# CAREERS WORCS

**ARE YOU AGED 16 - 24?  
AND NOT SECURED A PLACE IN EDUCATION,  
TRAINING OR APPRENTICESHIPS FOR SEPTEMBER?  
NEED HELP TO UNDERSTAND YOUR NEXT STEPS?**

- > Support for 16 - 24 year olds looking for education or training choices
- > Information on finding and accessing full time courses at colleges
- > Information on next steps in sixth form and sixth form colleges in Worcestershire
- > Information about University choices and the process for year 13s
- > Information on Apprenticeships and support with applications
- > Support to access English and maths support

Supporting Worcestershire's young people aged 16 - 24 to understand their next steps in light of the Coronavirus Covid 19. Helping them to make informed careers decisions about education next steps for September, including current year 11 and year 13 students. This new service has been launched to respond to the Covid 19 outbreak and closures of education settings and to support the young people of Worcestershire.

**CONTACT THE TEAM OF QUALIFIED ADVISORS NOW  
CALL 0300 666 3 666 OR EMAIL [CAREERSWORCS@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:CAREERSWORCS@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK) TO START YOUR JOURNEY.**

**FOR MORE CAREERS INFO VISIT [WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK)**



## PUBLIC SECTOR

THE PUBLIC SECTOR (WHICH INCLUDE NHS HOSPITALS, STATE SCHOOLS, LOCAL COUNCILS AND THE POLICE) EMPLOYS MORE THAN 5 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS THE UK, THAT'S OVER 17% OF THE WORKFORCE.

### CAREER PATHS

- >> ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER
- >> FORESTRY MANAGER
- >> CIVIL ENGINEER
- >> ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

## MEDIA & PR

THIS SECTOR IS ALL ABOUT SPREADING THE WORD, TELLING STORIES AND ENTERTAINING. IF YOU WANT YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD, OR TO HELP PRODUCE MEDIA FOR ALL SORTS OF AUDIENCES,

### CAREER PATHS

- >> WEATHER FORECASTER
- >> REPORTER
- >> JOURNALIST
- >> WRITER

## TRAVEL & TOURISM

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF REVENUE AND JOBS TO MANY ECONOMIES, FAMILIES AND PEOPLE.

### CAREER PATHS

- >> INTERNATIONAL AID WORKER
- >> TRAVEL AGENT
- >> AIR HOSTESS
- >> HOLIDAY REP

## EDUCATION

THIS REFERS TO EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS AND INCLUDES PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS, HOSPITAL SCHOOLS, HOME TEACHING SERVICES, TUITION CENTRES AND E-LEARNING CENTRES, AMONG OTHERS.

### CAREER PATHS

- >> TEACHING ASSISTANT
- >> LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
- >> SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TEACHER
- >> LEARNING MENTOR

# SUBJECT FOCUS: GEOGRAPHY

## HOW DO THE SUBJECTS YOU STUDY AT SCHOOL LINK TO CAREERS IN THE WORLD OF WORK?

## ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE

DESPITE PLANS TO REDEFINE ITS ROLE IN EUROPE, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN HIGH ON THE AGENDA - WITH A STRONG DEMAND FOR SKILLED GRADUATES,

### CAREER PATHS

- >> LAND BASED ENGINEER
- >> PLANT BREEDER / GENETICIST
- >> MINERALS SURVEYOR
- >> ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

## EDUCATION

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES IN TEACHING. THIS CAN BE IN SCHOOLS OR UNIVERSITIES. IT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PASS ON A LOVE OF GEOGRAPHY TO YOUNG PEOPLE. THERE IS ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH.

### CAREER PATHS

- >> GEOGRAPHY TEACHER
- >> UNIVERSITY LECTURER
- >> PRIVATE TUTOR
- >> PRIMARY TEACHER

## SCIENCE & RESEARCH

CAREERS IN THE SCIENCES GO FURTHER THAN MEDDLING AROUND WITH TEST TUBES IN A LAB, ADORNED WITH CRAZY HAIR! THERE ARE A WIDE VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONS AVAILABLE IN THIS SECTOR,

### CAREER PATHS

- >> MARINE BIOLOGY ASSISTANT
- >> NATURE CONSERVATION OFFICER
- >> FOOD SCIENCE TECHNICIAN
- >> HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT

## ENERGY & UTILITIES

ABOUT HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WORK IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. HOWEVER, BIG INCREASES ARE EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

### CAREER PATHS

- >> GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER
- >> COMMERCIAL SURVEYOR
- >> WATER CONSULTANT
- >> ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

## SCIENCE & RESEARCH

SCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL JOBS COVER A VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS - FROM FOOD AND CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY, TO BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE, MICROBIOLOGY, PHARMACOLOGY AND FORENSIC SCIENCE.

### CAREER PATHS

- >> RESEARCH SCIENTIST
- >> NUCLEAR ENGINEER
- >> EMERGENCY PLANNER
- >> WEATHER FORECASTER

# SUBJECT FOCUS: GEOGRAPHY

**NOW YOU HAVE EXPLORED  
THE SUBJECT NOW LOOK AT  
SOME OF SPECIFIC JOB ROLES.**

## JOB: WATER ENGINEER



**A career as a water engineer may appeal to you if you're keen to solve problems within global warming, ageing infrastructure, population growth and quality of living standards**

**You may work with a variety of different liquids but will generally deal with the provision of clean water, disposal of waste water and sewage and prevention of flood damage.**

**Asset management will play a major part in your work, involving the repair, maintenance and building of structures that control water resources. Examples include sea defence walls, pumping stations and reservoirs.**

**'Water engineer' is a generic title given to engineers who specialise in water-based projects. Many have a civil engineering or environmental background.**

## RESPONSIBILITIES

**As a water engineer, you'll need to:**

- design overall schemes, such as sewer improvement schemes or flood defence programmes, and associated structures, such as pumping stations, pipework and earthworks (the scale of the design may range from an initial outline to a full, detailed design)
- liaise with various bodies and individuals, including local authorities, government agencies, clients, contractors, residents, suppliers, technical experts and other consultants
- keep up to date with environmental matters, and be aware of policy and developments in this area
- present technical data or project results to both technical and non-technical clients and colleagues
- monitor the progress of projects from beginning to end - from design through to construction and handover - or supervise one section of a large project
- control budgets at project level
- supervise the operation and maintenance of water and sewerage infrastructure
- use computer simulations to analyse, for example, potential dam failure
- devise flood defence strategies, perhaps including river and flood plain modelling, economic studies and consultation with affected people
- monitor flood levels at times of high risk

## SALARY

- Starting salaries range from £20,000 to £30,000.
- Average salaries for engineers with experience can reach £24,000 to £32,000, rising to between £30,000 and £45,000 for senior engineer positions.
- Posts with a high level of management responsibility attract salaries above this level and can be in excess of £60,000, depending on qualifications and experience

## WORKING HOURS

Unsocial working hours may be a feature of some jobs, especially when meeting deadlines. Site work may involve long hours as well as travel. Staff with operational responsibilities or flood-monitoring duties may be on a call-out rota for out-of-hours emergencies.

The job can be pressurised at times and may involve shift work, which may impact on your personal life.

## QUALIFICATIONS SKILLS

Although this area of work is open to all graduates from relevant engineering and sciences courses, a degree in civil engineering may improve your chances. Other degrees that may be useful include:

- biochemistry
- chemical/process engineering
- environmental engineering
- environmental science - physical
- geology
- geophysics/geotechnology
- mechanical engineering
- physical geography.

You'll need to show:

- sound engineering knowledge
- experience of project management
- communication and negotiation skills
- good teamwork and people management skills, for working with colleagues and clients
- problem-solving ability
- IT knowledge and a willingness to learn new systems
- self-motivation and a proactive approach to work
- commercial awareness
- an entrepreneurial spirit
- good time management skills
- a flexible approach to work and a willingness to take on new challenges
- a full driving licence - this is generally a requirement as you'll have to drive to different sites.

**For more information about this job and many others linking to Geography why not visit the Prospects - Job Profile website.**

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-a-to-z#section-A>

## JOB: PLANT BREEDER / GENETICIST



**Plant breeder/geneticists work on improving the quality and performance of existing agricultural and horticultural crops and create new varieties of plants**

**As a plant breeder/geneticist your aim will be to develop useful traits in plants, such as disease resistance and drought tolerance. You'll also work to improve characteristics such as appearance. Your role will be vital to the agricultural industry as there are constant challenges to meet market requirements and consumer demands, and to increase and maintain yields in important crops.**

**The traditional work of crossing existing plants and selecting new strains has been enhanced. You'll use your expertise to quickly and accurately select plants containing the genes of interest**

## RESPONSIBILITIES

**As a plant breeder/geneticist, you'll need to:**

- produce research aims and objectives, and predict the cost of the work
- research methods and techniques for improving plant breeding
- identify and select plants exhibiting desirable traits, based on natural genetic variation
- cross plants to produce new breeding material for field and glasshouse trials
- analyse and scientifically assess plant breeding in laboratory and field trials and select the best varieties
- conduct scientific projects, which may be laboratory based, especially in the winter months
- multiply up and produce virus-free plants
- keep up to date in the fast-moving area of science and translate ideas from scientific literature into new approaches to breeding problems
- respond to enquiries from farmers, agronomists and other professionals
- write and present work to other scientists and publish scientific findings
- liaise with and visit other scientists, commercial breeders and funding bodies.

## SALARY

- Starting salaries vary between £16,000 and £22,000.
- With three to five years' experience, salaries can reach £22,000 to £25,000.
- Typical salaries at senior levels range between £27,000 and £40,000+.

## SKILLS

You'll need to have:

- enthusiasm, commitment and a strong interest in plants and plant science
- good problem-solving skills
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- the ability to carry out work independently and with patience
- a flexible approach
- the ability and stamina to undertake research and long-term projects
- the skills to manage a busy laboratory
- strong team-working skills
- an analytical and investigative mind
- computer literacy and technical skills, as most laboratories are highly computerised
- a driving licence may be required for some posts.

## WORKING HOURS

The working routine follows a seasonal pattern and shifts are usually quite long with the plants requiring care seven days a week, although some months are less busy than others. Extra hours may sometimes be required depending on the experiments that are being carried out.

## QUALIFICATIONS

You'll need a good honours degree for entry into this career. Relevant subjects include life and medical sciences and agricultural and horticultural sciences. In particular, the following degree subjects are helpful:

- agriculture
- biology
- biotechnology
- botany and plant science
- crop and plant science
- genetics
- horticulture
- molecular biology.

**For more information about this job and many others linking to Geography why not visit the Prospects - Job Profile website.**

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-a-to-z#section-A>



**THE PEOPLE.**  
**THE CAREERS.**  
**THE WORKFORCE.**

**WORCESTERSHIRE LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION.**

# WORCESTERSHIRE LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

**LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION (LMI) IS USEFUL DATA THAT YOU CAN USE TO HELP YOU MAKE CHOICES ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE TERM BEFORE, BUT WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY MEAN? AND HOW DO YOU USE IT?**

Labour Market Information is data that is collected both nationally and locally. The data identifies important facts and figures about the world of work across the UK, and in individual cities, even in individual districts.

For example, if you live in Worcestershire and when you leave school you would like to continue to live and work in Worcestershire, Labour Market Information can let you know how many jobs are available in different industries, the type of pay you will receive and even who the local businesses are. This information can then support you in choosing your next steps for when you leave school and help you determine the right route to take to achieve your career aspirations.

You can find out more about the Labour Market in Worcestershire by visiting: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/careersportal/info/36/worcestershires-employment-and-labour-market-information-lmi>

## DID YOU KNOW?

Worcestershire is home to some of the UK's major companies. Have you ever heard of Yamazaki Mazak, Halfords, Worcester Bosch, Vax, Morgan Motors, Brinton's or QinetiQ? All of those companies are based here in Worcestershire.

# WORCESTERSHIRE KEY GROWTH SECTORS

In every county across the UK, there are Key Growth Sectors, this means that there are certain industries where job growth is expected to be much greater than other industries, meaning, if you are interested in a career in one of these sectors, your chances of finding a job are a lot higher.

In Worcestershire there are 4 main growth sectors, these are:

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Worcestershire benefits from a strong automotive supply chain, linking with Jaguar Land Rover and other first tier car manufacturers. The county also has a strong manufacturing base in traditional industries such as carpet weaving, needles and textile manufacture. In Worcestershire machine manufacturing and engineering employment is 85% above the England average.

### CYBER SECURITY AND DEFENCE

Worcestershire is home to specialist communications agency QinetiQ in Malvern. The Malvern Hills Science Park in the south of the county is now the site of a growing number of spin-out companies as well as home to the National Cyber Skills Centre.

### AGRI-FOOD/ AGRI-TECH SECTOR

Worcestershire contains rural areas with many successful businesses focused on agriculture, horticulture and food production across the UK "field-to-fork" supply chain. Companies are increasingly pioneering innovative technology in their growing and production practices.

### VISITOR & DESTINATION ECONOMY

An economic impact assessment found the direct value of tourism in Worcestershire to be £638 million, with over 6% of Worcestershire's employees working in the sector.

Although these are considered the main sectors for growth, this doesn't mean that if you want to work in a different industry you will not be able to get a job.

# WHAT ROLES FIT WITHIN A BUSINESS?



# LOOK BEYOND WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW.

## Did you know that an engineering company doesn't just employ engineers?

There are lots of different departments behind any company or organisation. This can include Human Resources, Finance, Marketing, I.T., Sales and many more! It is important to remember, that every company has a supply chain, and this will be made up of lots of different people, doing lots of different jobs.

Engineering companies have opportunities in engineering, research and development, finance, logistics, sales, I.T., administration, marketing and customer service.

Hotels recruit for roles such as chef, receptionist, administrator, general manager, event planner and director of marketing and sales.

The NHS need qualified doctors and nurses, but they also need physiotherapists, radiographers, porters, social workers, receptionists, G.P. practice managers, paramedics, clerks, accountants and I.T. specialists.

Don't ever take a company at face value! Always explore further to find out what other opportunities are available.

Remember, you need to work hard in all of your subjects and when it comes to making choices – you will always do well at something that you enjoy doing!

If you would like to find out more information about careers and education, labour market information, job sectors, and businesses in Worcestershire. Visit Skills4Worcestershire [www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk](http://www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk)

# THE WORCESTERSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP HUB

LOOKING FOR A GREAT WAY  
TO START YOUR CAREER?

WANT TO LEARN ON THE JOB, GAIN  
EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS  
WHILST ALSO EARNING MONEY?

THE ANSWER MAY BE AN APPRENTICESHIP...

## HOW WE CAN HELP...

- One to one advice and guidance
- Explaining all about how apprenticeships work
- Help in producing a CV
- Support in searching for vacancies and completing the online application
- Applying for vacancies and setting up alerts
- Preparing for the interview
- Understanding the role of the training provider and employer
- Other options if you can't get an apprenticeship just yet

## GET IN TOUCH...

 [worcsapprenticeships.org.uk](mailto:worcsapprenticeships.org.uk)

 @worcsapprentice

 /worcsapprenticeships

 0300 666 3 666



**WORCESTERSHIRE  
APPRENTICESHIPS**

# CAREERS ACTIVITIES TO TRY...

Careers activities don't always have to take place within the classroom or while you are at school. There are many careers activities which can take place at home which you can complete by yourself.

Here are a couple of activities which you may wish to undertake:

 Your Careers Leader can provide you with a copy of these activities which can be downloaded [HERE](#).

# A TO Z JOB ROLES

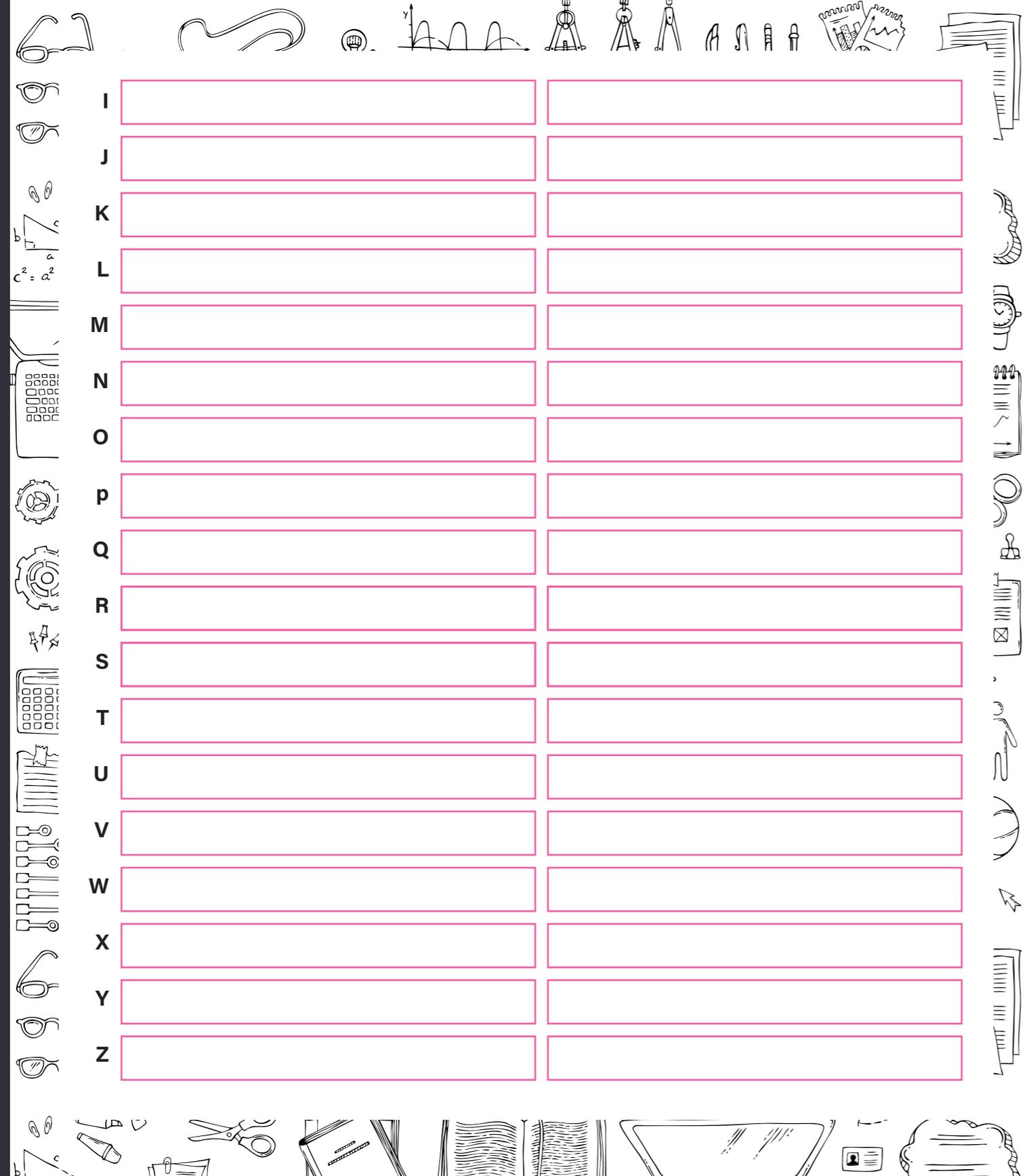
 Download activities

Whether you know exactly what job you want to do and how to get there, or whether you aren't sure just yet, researching the job roles within different industry sectors will help you to expand your knowledge and help you understand the learning pathways, skills and qualifications which potential employers may be looking for from young people entering their industry sector.

In order to help you understand the vast range of job roles that there are within the world of work lets complete this short activity.

**Our challenge to you today is for you to research and list at least 2 x job roles for each letter of the alphabet.**

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



# GUESS MY JOB

 [Download activities](#)

I		
J		
K		
L		
M		
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O		
P		
Q		
R		
S		
T		
U		
V		
W		
X		
Y		
Z		

There are many different pathways available to students for them to enter the world of work.

Whether you know exactly what job you want to do and how to get there, or whether you aren't sure just yet, researching the job roles within different industry sectors will help you to expand your knowledge and help you understand the learning pathways, skills and qualifications which potential employers may be looking for from young people entering their industry sector.

Complete the "GUESS MY JOB" quiz below and then undertake the simple careers research activities. This activity will help you understand the industries, courses and pathway opportunities available to you here in Worcestershire.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

## GUESS MY JOB QUIZ

- > Some people are afraid of me.
- > I wear a white coat.
- > My office has a big comfy chair.
- > You should visit me at least once a year for good health.

**What is my job?**

- > I travel all over the world.
- > People are usually very happy to see me.
- > I offer a service to my customers of drinks, food and gifts.
- > I do not work on the ground.

**What is my job?**

- > I work very long hours.
- > I am usually very mucky.
- > I work outdoors all year round.
- > Supermarkets depend on me.

**What is my job?**

- > Nearly everything in this world has been created or designed by someone like me.
- > I work in a factory.
- > I work with machines.
- > I usually work in shifts.

**What is my job?**

- > Dogs don't usually like me.
- > I visit your home 5/6 days a week.
- > I always bring you something whenever I visit.
- > Bad weather doesn't stop me.

**What is my job?**

- > People are usually very happy with my creations.
- > I work with all types of food.
- > You shouldn't eat what I create every day.
- > I couldn't do my job without some scales, bowls and utensils.

**What is my job?**

- > My job can be incredibly dangerous.
- > My mission is to keep everyone safe.
- > I wear a uniform.
- > You would ring me if you needed urgent help.

**What is my job?**

- > I work in an office.
- > I have lots of clients.
- > I help clients with their money.
- > I dress smart for my job.

**What is my job?**



**CAN YOU RESEARCH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THIS JOB ROLE: ENGINEER**

Can you list as many possible entry routes into employment as you can in order to become an Engineer?

What courses or qualifications do you think potential employers would be looking for in order for you to join their organisation as an Engineer?

Can you identify 3 x local employers who would employ Engineers?

Tell us what they manufacture and why you would be interested in working for them?

Can you research the courses you could take at either College or at University which could help you become an Engineer?

Where would you go to find out information about an Engineering Apprenticeship?

List 3 x employers who offer Engineering Apprenticeships?

CAN YOU RESEARCH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THIS JOB ROLE: **BUSINESS BANKER**

Can you list as many possible entry routes into employment as you can in order to become a Business Banker?

Can you research the courses you could take at either College or at University which could help you become a Business Banker?

What courses or qualifications do you think potential employers would be looking for in order for you to join their organisation as a Business Banker?

Where would you go to find out information about a Business Banking internship?

Can you identify 3 x local employers who would employ Business Bankers?

List 3 x employers who offer Banking Internships?

Tell us what services / advice they provide and why you would be interested in working for them?

THANK YOU FOR READING CHOICES

# CHOICES

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
INSPIRING WORCESTERSHIRE CAREERS HUB  
[WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK)**