

# After GCSEs: Making subject choices at A-Level (or equivalent)

We asked Year 11s how they were making their subject choices and how they felt about the next steps of their journey

**Methodology:**

TSR Asks monthly omnibus survey of students currently in Year 11 (or equivalent), aged 16+

**Fieldwork:**

1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Base:**

249 responses

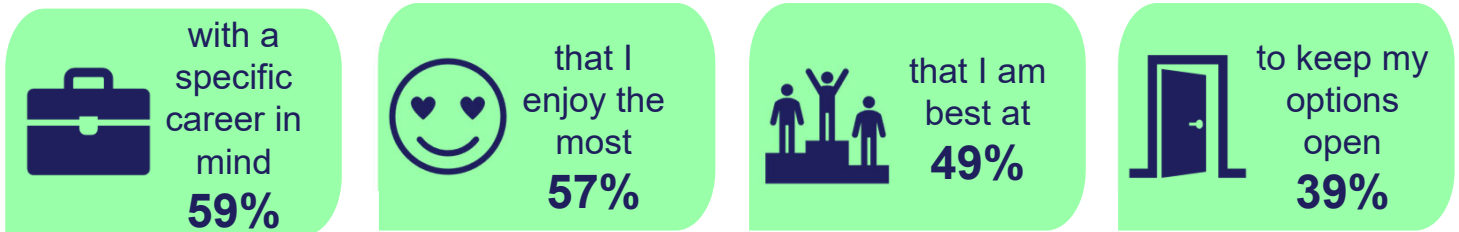
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## How are subject choices being made?

Almost all (97%) Year 11 respondents were planning further study at A-Level or equivalent. In terms of choosing their subjects, future employability was already influencing study choices with 59% stating they would choose their subjects with a specific career in mind. While 39% wanted their subjects to keep their options open

Enjoying their chosen subjects (57%) and selecting those they were best at (49%) were also factored into decision making.

### I have chosen / will choose subjects...



### Who is providing advice on which subjects to pick?



### Are information needs being met?



At this stage (March of Year 11), only a third (33%) felt they had received enough information to choose their subjects, while around one in six (16%) were struggling to narrow down which subjects to pick. Of those struggling to narrow down which subjects to pick, just 15% felt they had received enough information to choose their subjects.

**Q: Thinking about your subject choices at A-Level or equivalent, which of the following do you agree with? (multiple choice)**

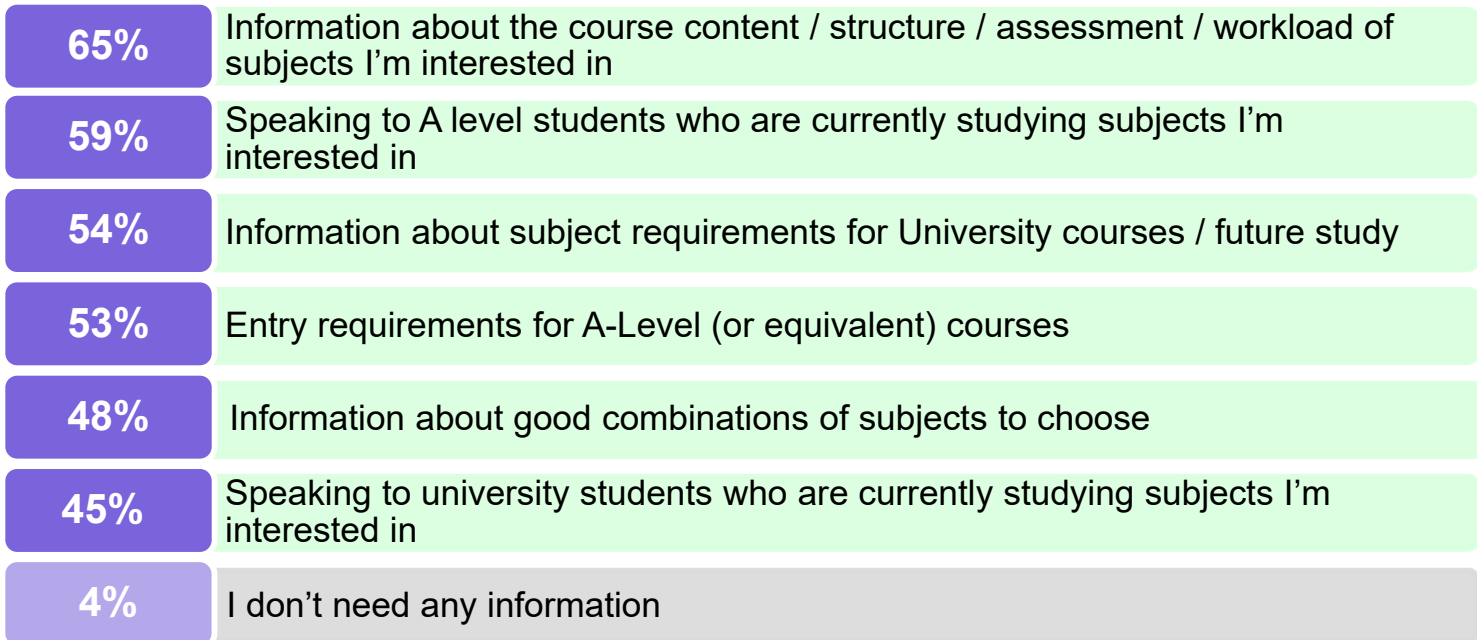
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## What information do Year 11s need?

With relatively few (33%) saying they had received enough information to make their choices, there appeared to be an appetite for more support. Almost all (96%) felt additional information would be helpful in choosing their subjects. In total, almost three-quarters (71%) felt speaking to either current A-level and/or university students studying their subjects would be helpful. Almost two thirds (65%) wanted information about the course content, structure, assessment or workload.

Planning for their next steps, around half wanted advice on subject requirements for university courses (54%) or information about good combinations to choose (48%).

**Q: Which of the following information, if any, would be helpful to choose which subjects to pick at A-Level (or equivalent)? (multiple choice, respondents planning to study at A-Level or eq.)**



## How do they feel about their upcoming studies?

Looking ahead, while 'excited' was the word most frequently used to describe their feelings about starting A levels or equivalent, overall, the words used were largely negative and suggested a feeling of apprehension about the next stage of their education.

**Q: What one word would you use to describe how you feel about starting A-Levels (or equivalent) next year? (Open comment, respondents planning to study at A-Level or eq.)**



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