

Year 8 Curriculum decisions

Deadline window:

Tuesday 28th January – Friday 14th February

Forms are handed to the front office

Important dates

- **Today**: A detailed letter issued to parents with a subject booklet containing summaries and helpful information, together with a curriculum decisions submission form.
- A period of consultation and consideration between students, teachers and parents where decisions are weighed-
- **14th February 2020**: Deadline for decisions forms to be submitted.

Making curriculum decisions

- These can be influenced by your career ambitions and interests. However, you are very young for this to be certain so the breadth of the curriculum needs to be kept so as not to branch off into special areas too soon and close off pathways that you need to keep open. Nevertheless, it is worth bearing in mind that certain careers do expect certain GCSE outcomes in certain subjects.
- In addition to your feelings about possible career directions you should consider where you are doing well and are enjoying things. For example, one reason to pick up a second language would be if your reports, grades or teacher feedback indicates that you are making strong progress in languages.

Career/ Calling

After school
1/2 subjects

Year 12-13
3/4 subjects

Year 10-11
10 Subjects

Year 9
12 subjects

Years 7-8
16 subjects



But why
now!?

Do you know what you want to do when you are older?

Teacher?

Vet?

Professional sportsperson?

Plumber?

Architect?

Chef?

Astronaut?

Actor?

Accountant?



What GCSEs do you need?

Vet: Often five or more grade 7s including in sciences, with 6+ in maths, English and sometimes a foreign language. Three A levels including biology and or chemistry. Usually AAA grades.

Nurse: You will usually need five GCSEs (4-9) including maths, English and science, plus at least two A levels with one in a science or health-related subject.

Chef: There are no set requirements, but GCSEs (4-9) in English and maths.

Architect: Usually AAB, often favour Art subjects but forbid all 3 from A-levels. Often want grade 5+ GCSEs including a language.

Find out what you would need for the jobs you might want to do:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/home>

How should you choose?

- Most jobs require GCSE qualifications in English and maths.
- Lots of jobs ask for science and a language.
- This is why these are all part of our core curriculum.
- Make sure you look up what GCSEs you need for the career you might want to do!
- If you are not sure what you want to do as a career yet, (I imagine that's lots of you) choose subjects that keep your options open. The core curriculum is already based on providing you with the broadest and strongest pathway to keep doors open for you.

Figure 5: Real earnings by maths GCSE grade

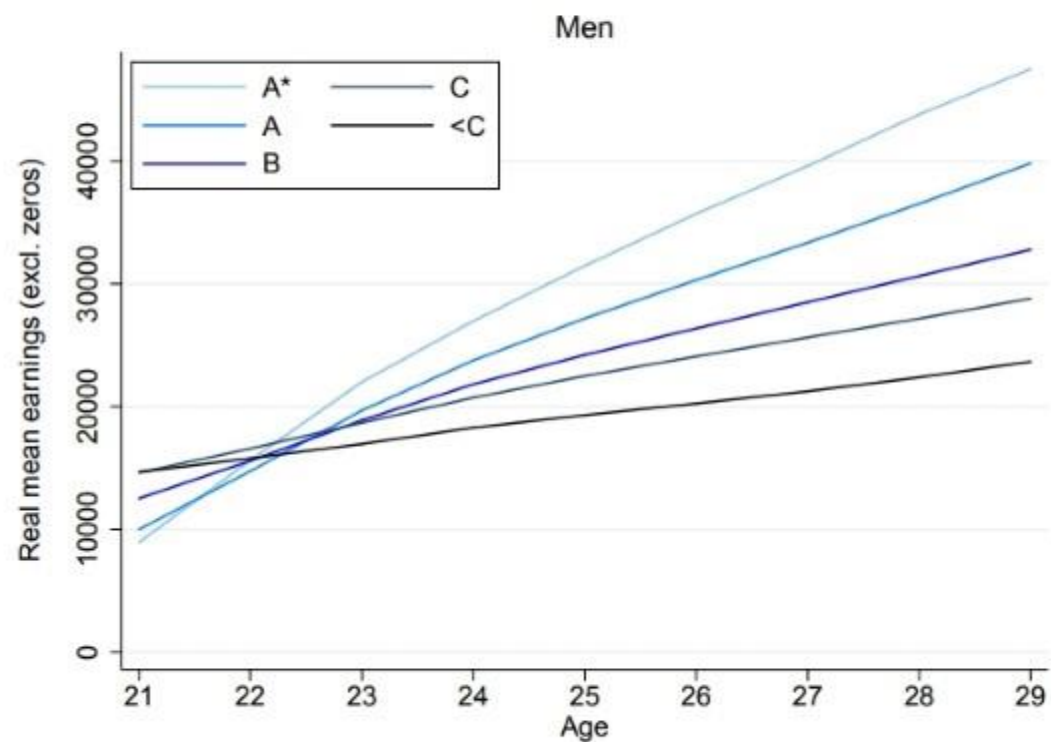
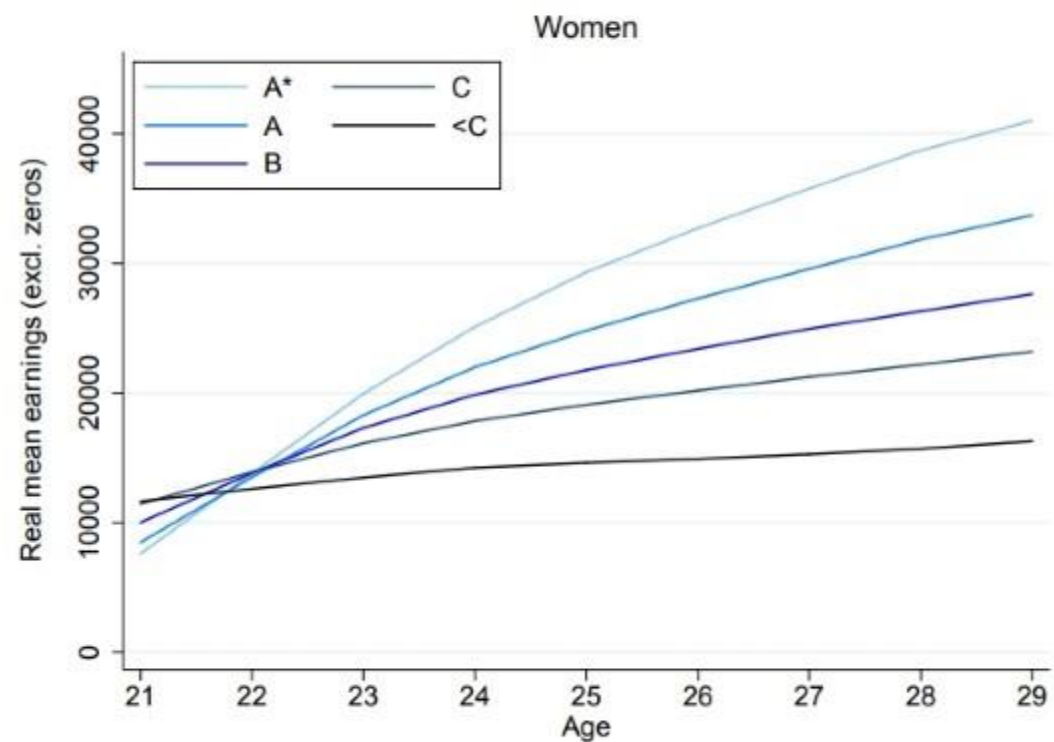
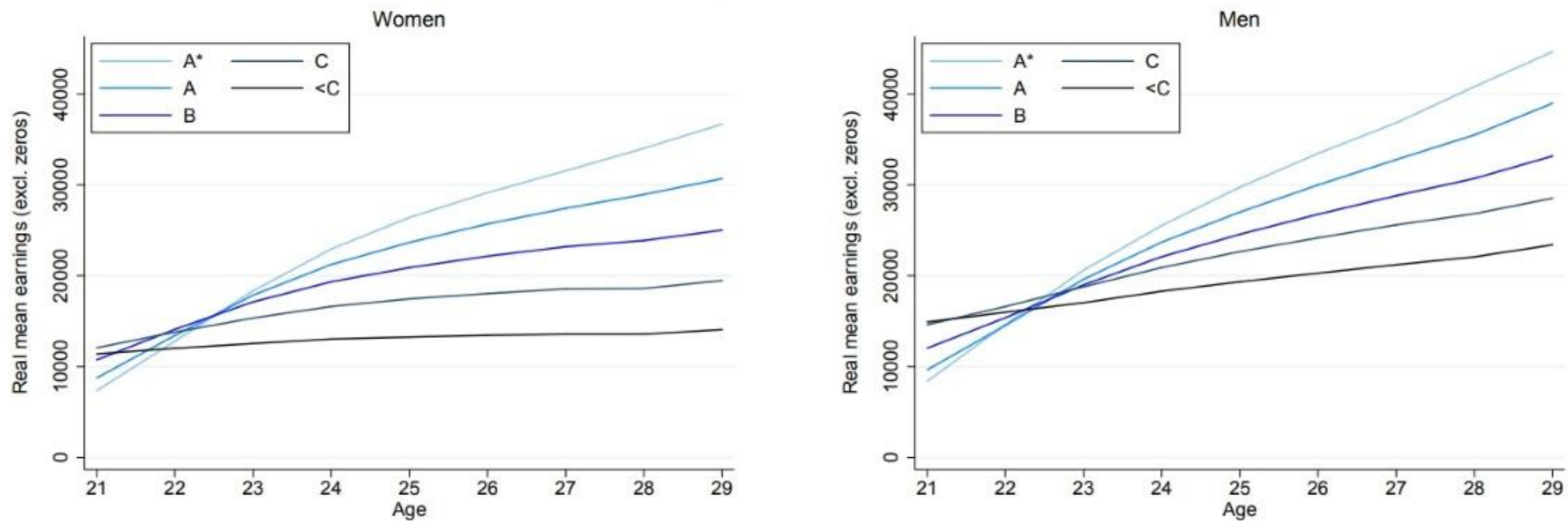


Figure 6: Real earnings by English GCSE grade



Note: Uses 2002-2007 GCSE cohorts. Figures include everyone (including non-HE with and without at least five A*-C GCSEs) conditional on being in sustained employment, with earnings capped at the 1st and 99th percentiles and excluding self-employment income. Earnings are in 2018 prices.

Core Curriculum

Core Curriculum

English Language and Literature	6 periods
Mathematics	6 periods
Biology	3 periods
Chemistry	3 periods
Physics	3 periods
Religious Studies (GCSE)	5 periods
Geography	4 periods
History	4 periods
French/German (delete as applicable)	4 periods
Physical Education	4 periods

Choice subjects (Choose 2)

- Art and design
- Drama
- French - beginners
- German - beginners
- Food studies
- Computer science
- Latin (if studied already)
- Music
- Product design
- Textiles

Choice subjects (Choose 2) Example RAG method

- Art and design
- Drama
- French - beginners
- German - beginners
- Food studies
- Computer science
- Latin (if studied already)
- Music
- Product design
- Textiles

This is an important decision in Year 8.

GCSE and equivalent courses in any of those choice subjects cannot be followed in years 10 and 11 unless they have been studied in year 9.

Specialist Subject Options– 4 periods for each subject

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Choose one subject from block A and one from block B and an alternative (should first preferences not be possible) and write them in order of preference in the space provided. You may not select a subject more than once.

<i>Option Block A</i>	Art & Design	Textiles	German	Latin	Computing	Product Design	Food
<i>Option Block B</i>	Drama	Music	German	Latin	Computing		

First preferred subject: _____

Second preferred subject: _____

Alternative: _____

If there is a selection not permitted by the blocks, but which you have strong grounds for requesting please detail it below and we will respond to you as to whether it can be accommodated.

What now?

- Speak to your parents tonight! Read over the letter with them and perhaps discuss it over dinner.
- Write down your initial thoughts in a notes page in your planner.
- RAG rating the 10 subjects is a good start.
- Discuss this a little further with your tutor.
- Speak to particular teachers who may be able to help.
- Get a parent to help research a particular idea if this is important to you.
- Get in contact via your year manager if you need further guidance
- Study hard: keep doors open!