

Let's talk technical education

We know that it can be hard to guide your child through school and give them the right advice during these formative years. Before each pupil begins year 10, they'll need to select some options, alongside core subjects, to create their timetable.

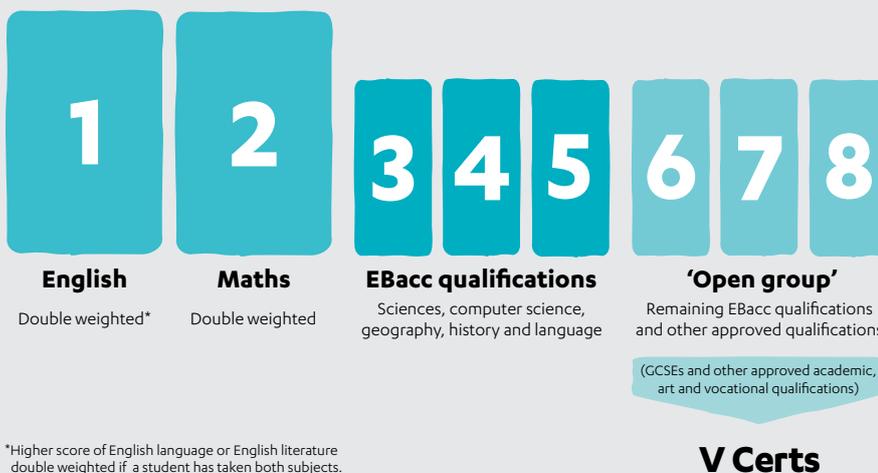
Here's some information to help you help them as they make these important decisions.

What to expect

Your child will take 8 or more subjects at GCSE level, with some exceptions for pupils taking fewer. These options are selected from what is known as the 3 buckets.

Progress 8 measure

Where V Certs sit within the progress 8 measure.



*Higher score of English language or English literature double weighted if a student has taken both subjects.

English and maths are from bucket 1, which are compulsory. Some schools may make other subjects compulsory such as languages or EBacc subjects like sciences, geography or history.

The second bucket is made up of EBacc qualifications (sciences, computer sciences, geography, history or languages).

The third bucket is all other EBacc qualifications and technical or vocational qualifications, such as V Certs.

Outside of the core subjects (bucket 1), your child will be given a variety of options to choose from, including technical qualifications.

The Attainment 8 score measures the achievement of a pupil across 8 different subjects.

The Progress 8 score shows how they have improved during secondary school, compared to other pupils who were at the same level.

What are V Certs?

V Certs are technical or vocational qualifications which:

- are designed to apply both practical and theoretical knowledge in a specific area
- relate to employment in a particular sector with clear progression links
- consist of practical content or applied learning
- consist of both portfolio work and an examination element
- can prepare pupils for the workplace with unique skills necessary in their chosen sector
- allow pupils to gain recognition for practical skills
- open up broad progression opportunities into Level 3 programmes and apprenticeships.

Common questions

Who can take a technical V Cert?

Anyone! They're a great option for people who benefit from learning through hands-on, practical content.

Are they easier than a GCSE?

Technical qualifications are scrutinised by the Department for Education to ensure they offer equivalent levels of rigour and challenge to a GCSE. However, the benefit is that some pupils find that the teaching methods used to deliver technical qualifications helps them retain the information, giving them have a better chance of success.

What about if my child wants to study further at sixth form or college?

Many technical qualifications, including V Certs, carry performance points which is a measure set by the Department for Education to ensure that they're a rigorous technical alternative to a GCSE. Therefore, they can go on to further study at sixth form or college, as they would with a GCSE.

What about Higher Education and University?

Your child can continue technical study at sixth form or college with Key Stage 5 qualifications like Applied Generals or Tech Certs. Many of these qualifications carry UCAS points, which is the points system applied to grades gained at school or college when applying for university.

From classroom to career

Technical qualification content addresses the specific skills needed in the employment sector that they're exploring. With the British Chambers of Commerce reporting that 88% of businesses think school leavers are unprepared for the workplace, this is a welcome support for young people. When your child chooses a technical qualification, they are given occupational tasters of different industries that they may not otherwise be introduced to.

What's next?

Making choices so early in life can be daunting. A rich and varied curriculum with a mixture of subjects will introduce different learning styles and sectors to your child. Find out more about V Certs on our dedicated web pages.

