



LESSON PLAN 1

Exploring Post-18 Options

Target Group: Year 12-13 Students
(could also be used for younger groups if you choose)

Duration: 50 Minutes

Objective: Help students explore and understand the variety of post-18 pathways available, including further education, apprenticeships, work, and other options.

Materials Needed:

- Projector/Screen for Presentation Slides
- Printed Activity Sheets
- Whiteboard/Markers

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Lesson Outline

1

Introduction to Post-18 Options (10 Minutes)

- **Outcome:** Students will understand the range of post-18 options available (Bachelor's degrees, Higher Technical Qualifications, etc.).
- **Activity:** Use the "Post-18 Options" slide to discuss options like Higher Education, apprenticeships, gap years, or direct employment.
 - ◇ **Prompt:** "What options have you heard about or considered?"
 - ◇ **Whiteboard Activity:** Write down the different pathways students mention, and expand on each.

2

Overview of Course Types (15 Minutes)

- **Outcome:** Students will practice decision-making and matching their interests to appropriate pathways.
- **Activity:** Use the "Course Types" slide to present different options, explaining formats like full-time, part-time, sandwich courses, etc.
 - ◇ **Paired Group Activity:** Ask students to partner up and discuss which type of courses might fit their interests and why. Give them 5 minutes to discuss, then take 5 minutes for groups to share their thoughts with the class.
- **Notes:**
 - ◇ Encourage students to reflect that different university degrees can be very different. For example, a full-time, undergraduate English degree at a professional and technical university might be a different experience to a full-time, undergraduate English degree at a research-intensive university. One is likely to be taught in a more applied way and the other in a more theoretical way. Students might want to consider how they prefer to learn.

3

Interactive Exercise: Matching Courses to Career Goals (15 Minutes)

- **Outcome:** Students will understand the range of post-18 options available (Bachelor's degrees, Higher Technical Qualifications, etc.).
- **Activity Sheet:** Hand out a worksheet titled "Matching Careers to Courses." This worksheet lists several career goals (e.g., teaching, software development, graphic design).
 - ◇ **Task:** Students will match the career goal with the most suitable course type (e.g., Bachelor's degree for teaching).
- **Class Discussion:** Spend 5 minutes going over the worksheet, asking volunteers to share their matches and reasons why.

Lesson Outline continued

3

- **Notes:**

- ◇ There are no 'correct' or 'incorrect' answers in this activity: a range of different study options can lead to a range of different careers, and this activity should make that clear to students.
- ◇ Students should be reassured that they do not need to know what they want to do in their future careers. If they do know, then they can ensure their study choices support that goal, but if they don't then that is ok too: there are plenty of courses and qualifications that open up a broad range of options and it is best to study something they love.

4

Wrap-Up and Reflection (10 Minutes)

- **Outcome:** Students will identify their top options and articulate why they may be suitable..
- **Activity:** Ask students to note down two pathways they might consider, and why they're interested in them. Collect these reflections, which can be revisited in future sessions.
 - ◇ **Follow-Up:** Direct students to external resources, such as unimythsbusted.co.uk, the UCAS website or apprenticeship databases, for more detailed research on their chosen paths.



Lesson Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

- **Knowledge:** Students will understand the range of post-18 options available, including different course types and their benefits.
- **Skills:** Students will practice decision-making and matching their interests to appropriate pathways.
- **Reflection:** Students will identify their top options and articulate why they may be suitable.

Assessment Criteria

1. Participation in group discussions.
2. Completion of the “Matching Careers to Courses” worksheet.
3. Reflection responses collected at the end of the lesson.