



# Introduction to Subject Selection

## Planning Backwards

Subject selection starts by planning backwards. We think about how we want our lives to be in the future, set goals, and take the actions that help us get there. It looks something like this:

### My Big Picture Goals

It's alright if you're not sure how to answer these questions yet, but have a go anyway:

What are my life goals?

What sort of future do I want for myself?

At 18, 23, and 30 years old I will...

### Pathways to Get There

What kinds of work would I like to do?

What education, training, and experiences will I need?

What are the different ways to get there?

What are my other options if I change my mind?

### Prepare for My Journey

Plan for the trip of a lifetime! Speak to people, do your research, try things out, and get involved. It's your responsibility to be informed and to make a Career Plan.

### Select My Subjects

Now you know where you're going and how to get there you're ready to choose the subjects that point you in the right direction!



# Selecting Subjects

## I Still Don't Know What I Want to Do!

No idea what you want to do? Can't imagine your adult self and futures life? Don't let these things get the better of you. You can still make wise and satisfying subject choices by identifying what you do and don't like, and what you are and aren't so good at.

### Think of it like this

- If you choose subjects based on what you like and enjoy, you'll be more motivated.
- When you're motivated you give your best efforts.
- Your best efforts are likely to result in better marks.
- Doing well helps you feel more confident, which means you'll be excited to explore different careers.
- The more careers you explore, the more likely you are to find you study and work choices satisfying.



**To identify your preferences, try the My Interests, My Skills, and Work Values activities within the Learn About Myself journey.**

### Informed Decisions Matter

The more you investigate your options, the more satisfying your pathway choices are likely to be.

### Every Experience Counts

No education or work is pointless - all our experiences add to our skills and strengths.

### Change is Constant

What you do next is just a starting point and you will need to keep learning throughout your entire life.

### The Future is Flexible

It's not set in stone and you can change directions if you change your mind.



# Selecting Subjects

## The Right Ways to Choose Subjects

### Consider your pathway

Are you aiming for a high ATAR or developing practical skills for the workforce? Multiple options exist beyond school, including vocational training, apprenticeships, or university via ATAR or non-ATAR pathways, so choose subjects to support your pathway.

### Select subjects you enjoy

You are more likely to put your full effort in if you like what you are learning.

### Select subjects you're good at

When you give your best effort, you're more likely to do well. If you're choosing a subject because it's a prerequisite, reflect on whether your previous learning indicates you're likely to succeed.

### Be realistic about your results

Be sure to review your results and speak to your teachers. Being realistic about your abilities and skills helps you choose subjects at the right challenge level.

### Balance your workload

Aim for a combination of subjects that challenge you without overwhelming you and that fit with your other commitments.

### Know what you're signing up for

Speak to the subject teachers, read the textbook, talk to students taking the class. Read the subject handbook and attend 'taster' lessons or subject information sessions so you really know what each subject involves and if it's for you.

### Keep your options open

If you're unsure about your pathway, keep your subject choices broad and diverse so you have flexibility in your future studies and career choices.

### Seek guidance from your allies

Your teachers, coordinators, and Careers Advisor can help you develop a plan aligned with your aspirations. Ask them questions and listen to their advice, as they really are there to help you.

### Remember the big picture

School isn't just about academics. Consider extracurricular activities, sports, arts, or community service which provide valuable skills and learning, contribute to personal growth, and enhance your overall school experience.



# Selecting Subjects

## The Wrong Ways to Choose Subjects

### Select subjects you think will be 'easy'

All subjects require effort to do well, even if you're naturally talented in the area. You're better off choosing a subject you enjoy and will be engaged in rather than one that doesn't really interest you, but that you think will be easy.

### Choose subjects based on teachers

Subjects are allocated to teachers based on the demands on the timetable, and changes can be made at the last minute. This means you can't guarantee who your teacher will be.

### Select subjects for 'prestige' or to impress others

It's your own satisfaction that matters, not how you think other people will perceive you.

### Pick subjects to be with your friends

There is no guarantee your timetables will align, and if you're prone to distractions, you may learn better independently.

## What If I choose a 'wrong' subject?

Putting time and effort into picking the right subjects matters because once you've chosen them, you may not be able to make changes. If, despite your best efforts to choose wisely, you find yourself in a subject you don't like or aren't doing well in, use the challenge as an opportunity to develop:

- Perseverance by giving it your best anyway.
- The attitude that you get out what you put in.
- Skills in something that doesn't come naturally which demonstrates maturity and discipline.
- A growth mindset by realising that learning what we don't like or what we're not good at helps us to know ourselves better.




Use your new self-knowledge to inform your future decisions. For example, if you thought you'd love Food Tech but just found yourself in a mess, cross it off your list and confidently know careers in a kitchen aren't for you.



# Selecting Subjects

## Am I Ready to Select My Subjects?

Use this checklist to see when you're ready to make your subject choices. If you answer 'no' or 'unsure' to any of the statements, do a bit more research before you lock in your selections. If you can answer 'yes' to all of them, select your subjects with confidence, knowing you've made informed choices.

Am I ready to select my subjects?			
I like the subjects I'm choosing enough to study them every day.			
The subjects I'm choosing cover prerequisites for courses I'm interested in.			
I have spoken to the subject teachers.			
I understand what each subject is about and how I will be assessed.			
I can realistically manage the workload given my other commitments.			
I'm aware of other requirements I need to meet e.g. folio, audition, etc.			
I meet the recommended subjects or grades for selecting these subject.			