



Choosing School Subjects

Learning Outcomes

The information in this career resource will develop your knowledge of:

- The importance of your school subject choices.
- Factors to consider when choosing school subjects.
- The relationship between school subjects and career goals.
- School subject choice in the middle or lower secondary years.
- School subject choice in the senior secondary years.
- A decision making process for choosing school subjects.

Choosing school subjects is usually one of the first career decisions that school students make. Your school subject choices can influence your early career so they should be chosen carefully. This resource will give you some tips for choosing school subjects.

The Importance of Your School Subject Choices

School subject choices are career decisions because your school subjects, particularly in the senior secondary years, can have an impact on the course and career options available to you in the first stage of your career after leaving school. For example, deciding to drop Science in the senior secondary years may preclude direct entry into bachelor degree courses in many health



and medical sciences, engineering, and other science disciplines.

Choosing your subjects wisely can help you to achieve your career goals. For example, choosing a vocational education and training subject related to your career goal may help you to gain an Australian Apprenticeship in your preferred industry and give you a head start in your training.

Factors to Consider When Choosing School Subjects

Factors to consider when making decisions about school subjects include:

1. Enjoyment of the subject. You are more likely to do well academically when you enjoy the subjects you are studying.
2. Likelihood of success in the subject. It is important to plan your subjects so that you can achieve the best possible results, as this will keep more options open in the future. Some students may need to study a foundation subject to prepare for achieving success in a related higher-level subject.
3. Having a balanced academic programme. Studying subjects in a range of knowledge areas will help you to:
 - Keep options for the future open.
 - Discover what fields of knowledge you are passionate about.
 - Learn about your subject strengths.
4. Studying prerequisite or assumed knowledge subjects for a desired post-school course. This is important if post-school courses you hope to gain entry into require that you have passed specific school subjects.