

Activity 1

Completing the Degree Explorer



Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For students to explore degree subjects that might suit them by taking the TARGETcareers Futurewise Degree Explorer.• To be exposed to options that they might not otherwise have been aware of or considered.
Resources needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet access for each student.
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This activity is designed for students in Year 11/S4 to Year 13/S6 who are interested in going to university.• We expect it to be most popular for Year 12/S5 students. However, you may wish to run it with Year 11/S4 students so that they can choose their A levels/Highers or IB subjects with university in mind, or with undecided Year 13/S6 students.• The activity can be delivered by a teacher with no careers guidance experience.
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Degree Explorer takes around 20 minutes to complete, so we suggest running it in a lesson slot of around 30 minutes, then completing activities two and three (below) in subsequent lesson slots. However, if you have longer you may wish to run more than one of these activities in the same session.• If you have less time, it's possible to leave the Degree Explorer part-way through and start again later, so students could complete it in two short lesson slots.
Registering with TARGETcareers Futurewise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students need to register with TARGETcareers Futurewise (https://targetcareers.co.uk/user/register) in order to take the Degree Explorer – there's no charge for this. It will save time if students are able to do so before the lesson, though it will only take a couple of minutes on the day if this is not possible.
What students should expect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The questionnaire consists of two stages. Both stages involve students being presented with study topics that they would encounter in different degree subjects and indicating their interest in these topics.• In stage 1, they will be presented with study topics in pairs (for example 'how computers work' v. 'evolution of language over time'), with each topic relating to a different degree subject. They'll be asked to indicate which of the two most interests them, and then how much interest they have in their chosen topic.• At the end of stage 1 they'll see which broad subject areas best match their interests and be able to select between three and five of these to explore in more depth. (We imagine that they'll want to explore those that are their best matches; however, the choice is theirs.)• In stage 2, they will rate their interest in more specific topic areas that relate to these on a four-point scale.• At the end of stage 2 the output will be a list in ranked order of the top subject areas that match their interests, with some further information about each one.• NB the results will automatically save so that the student can access them again next time they log in.

Completing the Degree Explorer

<p>How to help your students get the best from the Degree Explorer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your students to push on through stage 1. There are 95 questions, which will probably feel like a lot, and students may find that quite a few of them are on topics that don't interest them personally. However, this is to help us narrow down what does interest them from the very wide range of available options so that stage 2 feels as tailored as possible. • If students are struggling to make choices, encourage them to go with their gut instinct and not worry about picking the 'right' topics.
<p>Introduction (approx. 5 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to sit individually at computers or with devices. • Teacher to introduce the activity, explaining that students will complete an online assessment to help them consider degree subjects they might enjoy. • Teacher to give a brief overview of the process, which can be based on the section 'What should students expect?' (above). • Teacher to ensure that students are registered with TARGETcareers Futurewise and have navigated to the Degree Explorer starting page.
<p>Completing the degree explorer (approx. 20 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to work individually at their own pace. • Teacher may wish to use the tips under 'How to help your students get the best from the degree explorer' (above) if any students struggle or become distracted.
<p>Wrap up (approx. 5 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher to check whether all students have completed the Degree Explorer. • Teacher to encourage any students who have not completed the assessment to do so in their own time (before activity two, if this is to be run). Students can start off at the point they left when they next log in to TARGETcareers Futurewise. • Depending on how activity two is to be run, the teacher may wish to ask students to print out or write down their results and bring this to the next lesson. • Teacher to encourage students to reflect on their results in preparation for activity two.