

Launchpad

Exploring Diplomas

Outline

This resource has been developed to allow students to explore the Diploma subjects available at their school/within their local area. It involves completing the following tasks:

- A short quiz to find out what students already know about Diploma subjects and to provide information on Diplomas.
- Using Launchpad to explore Diploma options, careers and progression routes related to each Diploma.

As part of this exercise it might be worth introducing your local 14-19 Prospectus to students.



Diploma IAG

Using this resource will allow students to explore the Diploma options available to them within their local area. It also helps students to build a foundation of knowledge for decisions regarding subject choices.

Method

This resource has been split into two sections:

Part 1: (roughly 10 minutes to complete and 15 minutes to review)

Diploma Quiz – To offer a brief introduction to Diploma subjects and to find out how much students already know about Diplomas.

Part 2: (roughly 20 minutes)

Diploma Exploration – This part will involve using Launchpad to find out more about a chosen Diploma, what skills the student will develop and what career opportunities are available through completion of the Diploma.

Part 3: (roughly 10 minutes)

Review – This part of the lesson will involve reflecting as a class on what has been learnt about the Diploma subjects.

To make effective use of this resource, review the answers to Part 1 before moving onto Part 2.

Resources

Each student will need access to the following:

- 'Exploring Diplomas' student handout.
- Launchpad – for Part 2 of the lesson.

A whiteboard/flip chart might be useful to document what Diploma opportunities are available for the students.

Part 1 – Diploma Quiz

Diploma Quiz Answers

The chart below shows the correct answer for each question. There are some additional talking points for each question underneath the chart.

	Question	True	False
1	When you are in Year 10, you can take a Foundation Diploma (level 1) or a Higher Diploma. (level 2)	x	
2	You can take the Diploma in more than one subject at a time.		x
3	Diplomas involve a mix of written, practical and employer-based work.	x	
4	You will complete at least 10 days' work experience if you take a Diploma.	x	
5	You can take GCSEs at the same time as a Diploma.	x	
6	It is compulsory to take GCSE English and Maths with a Diploma in Years 10 and 11.	x	
7	A Higher Diploma (Level 2) is the same as 7 GCSEs at A* to C.	x	
8	You can't do A levels after taking a Diploma.		x
9	You can't do a Diploma at 16 unless you have done one in Years 10 and 11.		x
10	You can get into university with an Advanced Diploma.	x	

Teacher Notes

Additional notes for each question.

Question 1:

- Answer is true.
- The Diplomas available in Year 10 are the Foundation and Higher Diplomas.
- A Foundation Diploma is the equivalent of 5 GCSEs graded D-G.
- A Higher Diploma is the equivalent of 7 GCSEs graded A*-C.
- There is also an Advanced Diploma, which is available to students in Year 12 and is equivalent to 3½ A Levels.
- A Progression Diploma is available in Year 12, equivalent to 2½ A Levels.

Question 2:

- Answer is false.
- Unlike GCSEs, it is only possible to study one Diploma subject at a time.

Question 3:

- Answer is true.
- Study for a Diploma is completed through a variety of classroom-based and practical work. Also as part of a Diploma, you will be required to complete a minimum of 10 days' work experience.

Question 4:

- Answer is true.
- As part of each Diploma, it is required that each student participates in a minimum of 10 days' work experience.

Question 5:

- Answer is true.
- The GCSEs taken alongside a Diploma might vary from school to school. It is, however, compulsory to study GCSE English and Maths.

Question 6:

- Answer is true.
- In Year 10/11, it is a requirement to take GCSE English and Maths as well as your chosen Diploma subject.

Question 7:

- Answer is true.
- A Foundation Diploma is the equivalent of 5 GCSEs graded D-G.
- A Higher Diploma is the equivalent of 7 GCSEs graded A*-C.

Question 8:

- Answer is false.
- After completing a Higher Diploma, it is possible to take A Levels or an Advanced Diploma, both of which can lead into Higher Education.

Question 9:

- Answer is false.
- In Year 12, it is possible to take a Diploma after studying GCSEs.

Question 10:

- Answer is true.
- The Advanced Diploma (available to people in Year 12) is equivalent to 3½ - 4 A Levels and can be used as a route to university.

Part 2 – Exploring Diploma Options

1. What Diploma subjects are available to you?

Here you will need to inform the students which Diploma subjects are available to them. As of September 2009 there will be 10 Diploma subjects, although not all of them are available in every local area.

2. Choose a Diploma subject you would like to find out more about. Which subject have you chosen?

Launchpad contains information on each of the Diplomas. You can access this information from the “Subject List” part of the program..

3. List two skills you could develop through taking this Diploma.

In each Diploma article, there is a heading called “What Skills Can I Develop?”. The students should list any two skills they find underneath this heading.

4. List three careers this Diploma will be very useful for.

Each Diploma subject links to relevant careers the subject will be very useful for. To access this information, click the link “This subject is very useful for these careers” (which is in a blue box on the right-hand side of the page). The students can list any three careers their chosen Diploma would be very useful for.

5. List three careers this Diploma will be useful for.

Similarly to question 4, click the link “This subject is useful for these careers”, located in the blue box entitled “Career Information”. The students can list any three careers their chosen Diploma would be useful for.

Part 3 – Reviewing Diplomas

This exercise would best be delivered as a class exercise to review what has been learnt about Diplomas and what alternatives might be considered:

1. What are the alternatives to taking a Diploma?

Explain to the students the alternatives to Diplomas, such as GCSEs so they are aware of the options available to them.

2. If you study a Diploma it will limit your GCSE options. Are there any GCSE subjects you would like to take but will not be able to if you take a Diploma?

Students should be aware from completing Task 1 that a Foundation Diploma is equivalent to 5 GCSEs and the Higher Diploma is equivalent to 7 GCSEs (the grades vary depending on the level of the Diploma). Therefore, the number of GCSEs students can do on top of the Diploma is limited.

The student can use this section to list any subjects they might be interested in studying but might not be able to whilst also taking a Diploma subject.

3. Who can help you decide if you want to take a Diploma?

Help with deciding on subject choices is available from a number of sources. Some people who students could talk to for help include:

- Parents/carers.
- Subject tutors.
- Form teachers.
- Connexions PAs.