

Future Skills Questionnaire: Starting Secondary

The Future Skills Questionnaire gives students the opportunity to reflect on their career-related knowledge and skills.

There are five versions of the questionnaire, allowing schools to assess the skills and knowledge of their students at specific points of transition: Starting Secondary (Year 7), Transition from KS3 (Year 8/9), GCSE Years (Year 10/11), Key Stage 5 (Year 12/13). There is also a questionnaire designed specifically for young people with SEND.

The questionnaire is administered from the [Compass+](#) platform. This allows data to be stored securely alongside students' pupil profile and for data visualisations to be automatically created as students complete the questionnaire. The data visualisations aggregate student responses by year group and student characteristics. This supports Careers Leaders to:

- Identify gaps in a school's provision
- Tailor careers activities to individual need
- Compare responses for groups of students

While we recommend that the Future Skills Questionnaire is administered through Compass+, we recognise this feature is not yet available to all educational institutions. Therefore, we have shared the Future Skills Questionnaire questions on The Careers & Enterprise Company [Resource Directory](#), for independent use.

These questions are from the 'Starting Secondary' questionnaire, aimed at students in Year 7.

Careers knowledge and skills

Response categories

- No, not yet
- Possibly, I'm not sure
- Yes, to some extent
- Yes, to a great extent

Questions

1. Have you learned about different careers other than those of your family or carers?
2. Are you aware of some of the types of businesses or employers in your area of the country?
3. Do you know what skills employers need? (Skills are personal qualities and things someone is able to do)
4. Do you know how to find out how much you could earn in different types of jobs?
5. Have you thought about how jobs and careers may change in the future?
6. At school, do you know who to go to for information and guidance about careers?
7. Do you know any trustworthy websites that can help you decide what to do in the future?
8. Do you have ideas about what you might do for a job or career in the future?
 - [If yes] What types of jobs/careers are you interested in at the moment?
[multi-choice options based on NCS 'Explore Careers']
9. Do you have ideas about what subjects you want to study for GCSE?

10. Do you understand these options after Year 11:

- a) Apprenticeships
- b) A-levels
- c) T-levels
- d) Other vocational routes such as BTEC

11. Have you thought about which of these options might be right for you?

- [If yes] Which of these options do you think you will probably take?
 - a) Apprenticeships
 - b) A-levels
 - c) T-levels
 - d) Other vocational routes such as BTEC
 - e) Other [open text]

12. Do you know how to make a good impression if you want to be chosen for a position of responsibility?

13. Do you feel optimistic when you think about your future career?

Essential skills for life and work

Response categories

- I don't know what this means
- I'm not able to do this yet
- I know what this is, but I'm not sure if I can do it
- I can do this quite well but could develop further
- I can do this really well

Questions

We'd like you to think how well you are able to demonstrate each of the following eight skills.

1. Using your own ideas, in schoolwork and things you do outside of school
2. Solving problems, by thinking about the positives and negatives of different options
3. Taking part in group discussions to reach shared decisions
4. Working well with others by respecting different opinions
5. Listening actively, for example by taking notes or asking questions if you don't understand
6. Speaking clearly by making points in a sensible order and using appropriate language
7. Keeping trying when something goes wrong
8. Having a positive approach to new challenges