

**Introduction to  
Your Way Forward – Options @ 18+  
2010/11**

**Aim:**

Encourage young people to consider issues around higher education and familiarise them with the publication Your Way Forward – Options @ 18+ (2010/11).

**Materials:**

- Copies of Your Way Forward – Options @ 18+ (2010/11) (preferably one per student)
- Copies of the worksheet
- Copies of the answersheet.

**Time:**

One hour.

**Method:**

- Distribute booklet and worksheet for students to work through **(30 mins)**.
- Hand out answersheet and discuss the next steps the students intend to take **(30 mins)**.

**Your Way Forward – Options @ 18+  
2010/11**

**Worksheet**

<b>The Connexions Service – inside front cover</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
List three things the Connexions Service could do to help you.	
What is the web address of your local Connexions Service.	
True or False Connexions Direct is a pay-as-you-go service.	

<b>Did you know? – page 5</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Name three of the most popular time out ideas for students in the South West.	
Where else in the booklet can you find out more about Time Out opportunities?	•
What percentage of BTEC National students go on to higher education within one year of completing their course?	
Where do one in nine students entering higher education choose to study?	
What do the following have in common? Finance, leisure & recreation, sales & retail, science & technology, tourism.	

<b>Calendar for Advanced Level Students – page 6</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
When's the best time to start looking at <u>all</u> your	

options beyond school/college?	
What might help you explore and expand your ideas?	
When should you start writing to companies for sponsorship opportunities? And when should you apply?	
Where else in this booklet can you find out about finance for higher education?	
When should your UCAS form be submitted?	Check out any recent changes to the application system at <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>
When can you start using UCAS Extra? Where in this booklet can you find out more about UCAS Extra?	
If you are planning to go to work after your advanced level studies, what should you consider?	

<b>Qualifications in Higher Education – pages 8-9</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
What is a 'thick' sandwich?	
What is a modular degree?	
What are the key elements of a Foundation Degree?	
Where are the best places to check entry qualifications?	

<b>Which Subject? – page 10</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
What is the main reason students drop out of higher education?	
When might a vocational course be a good choice?	

<b>Where to Study – page 12</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Apart from going away to university, how else might you study for part or all of a degree, foundation degree or higher national diploma?	

<b>How to Apply for Higher Education – pages 13-17</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How do you make a UCAS application?	
What is the UCAS web address?	
How many courses can you apply for?	
Where can you find out about course information?	
What additional information does the UCAS course search facility Entry Profiles give you?	
Why is the Personal Statement so important?	
What should you do first if you want to defer your entry to higher education?	
What is CUKAS?	

<b>Finance for Higher Education – pages 18-19</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How and when do you apply for financial assistance?	
Roughly what percentage of full-time students qualify for non-repayable support?	
What other sources of income might it be worth you investigating further?	

<b>Working in the South West – page 22</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
In 2008 what percentage of A Level students from the South West opted for employment?	
The South West has high levels of what sort of employment?	
Which sectors in the South West predict a decrease in the total number of jobs?	However, while overall numbers are predicted to decline, these sectors will still need to recruit staff.
Which sectors in the South West predict increases in employment?	

<b>Work Based Learning &amp; Job Seeker Tips – page 23</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How many types of Apprenticeship are there?	
What is your email address?	Is this appropriate to use with employers?
True or False. Work based learning can include study for a degree or equivalent	

qualification.	
----------------	--

<b>Employment after higher education – page 24-25</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
What are some of the main benefits of taking a degree?	
What percentage of graduate vacancies are open to degree holders in <u>any</u> subject?	
What was the average starting salary for graduates with leading employers in 2009?	

<b>Time Out – pages 26-27</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How would you include any time out experiences in your CV or job application?	

<b>International Opportunities– pages 28-29</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Where are 90% of the jobs involving languages?	
What are some of the ways you could find work in Europe?	
What percentage of recent UK graduates work outside the UK?	

**Your Way Forward – Options @ 18+  
2010/11**

**Answersheet**

<b>The Connexions Service – inside front cover</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
List three things the Connexions Service could do to help you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career decisions</li> <li>• Dealing with unexpected exam results</li> <li>• Applying for higher education</li> <li>• Planning a gap year</li> <li>• Seeking employment – including Apprenticeships</li> <li>• Writing a CV and preparing for interviews</li> <li>• Financial support for studying.</li> </ul>
What is the web address of your local Connexions Service.	www.connexionswest.org.uk
True or False Connexions Direct is a pay-as-you-go service.	False – it is a free service for landline users.

<b>Did you know? – page 5</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Name three of the most popular time out ideas for students in the South West.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid work</li> <li>• Study and training courses</li> <li>• Travel</li> <li>• Voluntary service</li> <li>• Work camps – home and abroad</li> <li>• Work experience.</li> </ul>
Where else in the booklet can you find out more about Time Out opportunities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadening your horizons: page 26</li> <li>• Website addresses: page 33.</li> </ul>
What percentage of BTEC National students go on to higher education within one year of completing their course?	Over half of all BTEC National students.
Where do one in nine students entering higher education choose to study?	At a further education college close to home.
What do the following have in common?	They are some of the most common employment areas for students from the

Finance, leisure & recreation, sales & retail, science & technology, tourism.	South West.
---	-------------

<b>Calendar for Advanced Level Students – page 6</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
When's the best time to start looking at <u>all</u> your options beyond school/college?	First year of advanced level study – autumn term.
What might help you explore and expand your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Course Finder</li> <li>• Stamford</li> <li>• Centigrade</li> <li>• Higher Ideas</li> <li>• Careerscape</li> <li>• Talk with your Connexions personal adviser or tutor.</li> </ul>
When should you start writing to companies for sponsorship opportunities? And when should you apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First year of advanced level study – summer term.</li> <li>• Second year of advanced level study – autumn term.</li> </ul>
Where else in this booklet can you find out about finance for higher education?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance for higher education: page 18</li> <li>• Website addresses: page 33.</li> </ul>
When should your UCAS form be submitted?	<p>Second year of advanced level study – autumn term. Between 1 September and 15 January.</p> <p><b>Check out any recent changes to the application system at <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a></b></p>
When can you start using UCAS Extra? Where in this booklet can you find out more about UCAS Extra?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second year of advanced level study – spring. 25 February.</li> <li>• How to apply for higher education: page 15.</li> </ul>
If you are planning to go to work after your advanced level studies, what should you consider?	The relevance of part-time higher education courses.

<b>Qualifications in Higher Education – pages 8-9</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
What is a 'thick' sandwich?	A course with a full year spent in industry.
What is a modular degree?	A programme based on individual units

	(modules) of study. Students progress through the course by accumulating modules.
What are the key elements of a Foundation Degree?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No set entry requirements (but you will usually need to have a Level 3 qualification)</li> <li>• Last two years (full-time). Also available on a part-time basis.</li> <li>• Distinctly vocational. Can lead to employment, progression to an honours degree or professional qualifications.</li> </ul>
Where are the best places to check entry qualifications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCAS – <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a></li> <li>• The UCAS Big Guide</li> <li>• The department you are applying to.</li> </ul>

<b>Which Subject? – page 10</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
What is the main reason students drop out of higher education?	They didn't think through their choice of subject.
When might a vocational course be a good choice?	If you have a well developed career plan which is best achieved via this route.

<b>Where to Study – page 12</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Apart from going away to university, how else might you study for part or all of a degree, foundation degree or higher national diploma?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a local further education college</li> <li>• Through the Open University – <a href="http://www.open.ac.uk">www.open.ac.uk</a></li> </ul>

<b>How to Apply for Higher Education – pages 13-17</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How do you make a UCAS application?	By using the UCAS Apply system.
What is the UCAS web address?	<a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>
How many courses can you apply for?	Up to five.
Where can you find out about course information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Search on UCAS website – <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a></li> <li>• The UCAS Big Guide.</li> </ul>
What additional information does the UCAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry requirements</li> <li>• Selection criteria</li> </ul>

course search facility Entry Profiles give you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desirable personal characteristics</li> <li>• Course content</li> <li>• Employability profiles</li> <li>• Bursary/scholarship opportunities.</li> </ul>
Why is the Personal Statement so important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is your opportunity to convince admissions tutors that you are right for the course.</li> <li>• It many cases it is the deciding factor.</li> </ul>
What should you do first if you want to defer your entry to higher education?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should check with the institution first to ensure they will accept a deferred entry.</li> <li>• Or, you can delay putting in your application for a year.</li> </ul>
What is CUKAS?	CUKAS is the online application system for the seven major music conservatoires – <a href="http://www.cukas.ac.uk">www.cukas.ac.uk</a>

### **Finance for Higher Education – pages 18-19**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How and when do you apply for financial assistance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register online at <a href="http://www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk">www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Apply as soon as you have applied for a place.</li> </ul>
Roughly what percentage of full-time students qualify for non-repayable support?	66%.
What other sources of income might it be worth you investigating further?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/family</li> <li>• Access to Learning Fund</li> <li>• Disabled Student's Allowance</li> <li>• Charitable and education trusts</li> <li>• Banks</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Sponsorship.</li> </ul>

### **Working in the South West – page 22**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
In 2008 what percentage of A Level students from the South West opted for employment?	20%.
The South West has high levels of what sort of employment?	Self-employment.
Which sectors in the South West predict a decrease in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretarial</li> <li>• Skilled agricultural trades</li> </ul>

the total number of jobs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process machine operation</li> <li>• Other skilled trades.</li> </ul> <p>However, while overall numbers are predicted to decline, these sectors will still need to recruit staff.</p>
Which sectors in the South West predict increases in employment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture, media and sport</li> <li>• Customer service</li> <li>• Caring</li> <li>• Corporate management</li> <li>• Teaching/research professional.</li> </ul>

<b>Work Based Learning &amp; Job Seeker Tips – page 23</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How many types of Apprenticeship are there?	Over 190.
What is your email address?	Is this appropriate to use with employers?
True or False. Work based learning can include study for a degree or equivalent qualification.	True.

<b>Employment after higher education – page 24-25</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
What are some of the main benefits of taking a degree?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stretch your intellect</li> <li>• Give you time to develop and mature</li> <li>• Might lead to a fulfilling and well-rewarded working life</li> <li>• Accelerated career progression.</li> <li>• Improved earning potential.</li> </ul>
What percentage of graduate vacancies are open to degree holders in any subject?	Over 50%.
What was the average starting salary for graduates with leading employers in 2009?	£25,000.

<b>Time Out – pages 26-27</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
How would you include any time out experiences in your CV or job application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress any skills you gained and show how these would be useful in the job you are applying for.</li> <li>• You've shown motivation to try new experiences.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A successful work experience placement could show your suitability for the job you are applying for.</li> </ul>
--	--

<b>International Opportunities– pages 28-29</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Where are 90% of the jobs involving languages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales</li> <li>• Customer service</li> <li>• Market research</li> <li>• Finance.</li> </ul>
What are some of the ways you could find work in Europe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the EURES database</li> <li>• Target UK companies with European links</li> <li>• Think about opportunities with the European Commission</li> <li>• Think about spending study or work time abroad.</li> </ul>
What percentage of recent UK graduates work outside the UK?	About 16%.