

If you leave school after your GCSEs, you have lots of options, from further learning to apprenticeships (you will need to be in some kind of learning or training until you're 18, though). Once you've headed into the world of work, your GCSEs can take you a long way.

Maybe a bit of paper can't guarantee success (unless it's a winning lottery ticket?) but your GCSE qualifications can take you far. Here are ten jobs you can do if you have GCSEs but no A-levels or their equivalents. In some cases, qualifications aren't required at all!

1. [Train Driver](#)



You could earn: £50,000

GCSE requirements: 5 GCSEs (including English and maths) not essential, but very useful

OK, maybe you haven't thought about being a [train driver](#) before... but when you see what a great average salary it offers, maybe you'd like to think about it? The pay is really good, and there are lots of opportunities for shift work and overtime. The catch is you have to be at least 21 years old to work as a train driver on the national rail network.

2. [Sales Executive](#)



You could earn: £18,000

GCSE requirements: Flexible, but usually 5 GCSEs including English and maths

Did you know: for an entry-level [sales executive](#) position, some companies won't ask for academic qualifications at all! Usually, though, employers will want proof you've got basic maths and English skills. After all, sales is all about communicating and has a bit to do with numbers, too. You'll fast-track your career progression if you have A-levels and even a higher national diploma (HND) or degree, but for a start in sales, 5 GCSEs are all you need.

3. [Air Cabin Crew / Flight Attendant](#)



You could earn: £24,000

GCSE requirements: Core GCSEs including English and maths

Entry requirements for airlines differ, though they'll tend to ask for GCSE passes in English and maths. The real catch is that airlines have a mix of other requirements, too! For example, if you want to [become a flight attendant](#), an airline may need you to be over 18, able to swim 25 metres without any help, in possession of a valid passport and meet minimum height requirements.

4. PR Executive



You could earn: £15,000 - £20,000

GCSE requirements: 5 GCSEs including English and maths

Fancy telling everyone why your company is a great brand? That's [what a PR executive does](#), working in a team under a PR manager. There are no set entry-level requirements for PR executives. Many graduates take a PR-related degree and aim to become PR officers (the next role up, usually earning £20,000 a year). If you're aiming to get into this profession with GCSEs, try to get as much PR experience as possible on your CV, even if it's after-school experience like doing the PR for a friend's band.

5. [Healthcare Assistant](#)



You could earn: £12,000 - £16,000 (up to £21,000 with experience)

GCSE requirements: Experience is more relevant than specific GCSEs

You don't need to be a doctor with a degree to get into healthcare. As a [healthcare assistant](#), you'd be right where the action is – helping to look after patients in their homes or in hospital. If you successfully apply for a job, your employer will train you up with the specific skills you need. You'll need to get some experience on your CV but you can get this through volunteering – check out the [NHS volunteering pages](#) for ideas of what you could do.

6. Transport Clerk (leading to Supply Chain Manager)



You could earn: £13,000-£16,000 (and £50,000 once you become a [supply chain manager](#))

GCSE requirements: These can vary

[Transport and logistics](#) keep the world moving. Ever wondered how you'd get fresh bananas from South America to Manchester? Now you can get paid to think about it. One of the many entry level jobs in this area is becoming a transport clerk – passes in English and maths are usually required, and any previous experience with admin or reception work will be useful, too. You can also explore apprenticeships in this field. As an example of where a job like this could take you, you could progress to become a supply chain manager, calling all the shots and earning a cool £50,000 a year!

7. Commis-Chef (leading to Chef)



You could earn: £14,000+

GCSE requirements: Qualifications not required

[Find out more about becoming a chef.](#) Did you know that famous celebrity chefs like Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay left school straight after their GCSEs? A commis-chef is a trainee chef who learns cooking from the ground up (yes, that includes washing up!). Becoming a commis-chef is a great way to get into an industry which tends to value experience, hard work and talent more than any qualification.

8. [Estate Agent](#)



You could earn: £12,000 - £30,000 (or lots more!)

GCSE requirements: GCSEs with good passing grades in English and maths

It's all about location, location, location when you [become an estate agent](#)! With GCSEs under your belt you can start in a junior position (look out for trainee estate agent jobs). A good way with people and a passion to make a sale are important for this role, so consider tweaking your CV to demonstrate where you've shown these qualities and skills. A junior position will help you build your skills and local knowledge, and there are lots of further training opportunities available, too. This career could be both personally satisfying and very well-paid for someone with natural selling skills.

9. [Plumber](#) or [Electrician](#)



You could earn: £10,000 - £35,000+

GCSE requirements: Qualifications not required

You know what they say – we’re always going to need working water and electricity in our homes, so if you become a [plumber](#) or [electrician](#) you're all set for job security. Plus you've got the chance to [set up your own business](#) once you get good at doing your thing! You can start your training as a plumber or electrician straight from school. Depending on your area, different apprenticeships will be available for trainee roles – these will usually involve a combination of work and training, and will continue until you’ve passed an industry-recognised Level 3 qualification. If you can’t do an apprenticeship straight away, talk to your careers advisor about other options like the Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme.

10. [Engineering Apprentice](#)



You could earn: £15,000 - £20,000+ (up to £30,000 with experience)

GCSE requirements: GCSEs in subjects like English, maths, science and technology

As an engineering apprentice, you could be working in manufacturing, transport... even aerospace! It could be a great way into the energy industry, with apprenticeships available through:

- [Atkins](#)
- [British Gas](#)
- [Costain](#)
- [EDF Energy](#)
- [UK Power Networks](#)

Your GCSEs will enable you to qualify for an apprenticeship that lets you earn wages while you train.

If you leave school after your GCSEs, you can head straight into work if you’re 17+, but you can also explore a host of further learning options. The [National Apprenticeship Service](#) is one of many ways to turn that first job into a rewarding career.