

NEC Guide for Home Educators

Why home educate?
Planning your journey
Courses to choose
Exams and non-examination assessment (NEA)

www.nec.ac.uk



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Your child's future, your child's goals

This guide is for parents who are thinking of home educating in a structured way. It will help you to understand what is involved, signpost you to further resources and explain how NEC can help you to home educate your child.

At the National Extension College (NEC) we've been supporting parents and their children for over 55 years, offering a wide range of subjects with no timetable clashes and no limitations.

With support from qualified and DBS-checked tutors and experienced support staff, each year thousands of students from around the world access our high-quality courses and learning resources to develop their skills and achieve their goals. The motivation to study could be to gain qualifications to go on to further or higher education, or to pursue professional courses in areas such as teaching or healthcare.

For more information and details of the courses we offer visit our website

www.nec.ac.uk

Please note: Throughout this guide 'parent' refers to parents, guardians and other carers.

Why do parents choose to home educate their children?

Some parents decide to home educate from the outset and for others, school doesn't suit their child or family. There are many reasons why parents may decide to home educate their child:

- You may have ideological, religious, cultural or philosophical views or beliefs that you want reflected in your child's education.
- You may be dissatisfied with the school system, the National Curriculum or with the particular school that your child attends.
- Your child may learn better when their learning is more informal and less structured.
- Your child may be being bullied at school or may be unable to go to school. For example, if they have a physical or mental health need.
- Your child may have a Special Educational Need (SEN) and you consider that there is a lack of suitable provision in the school system to meet these needs.
- You may be moving your family abroad permanently, for a fixed period of time, or traveling as part of your education.
- Your child's school may not offer the subjects that your child would like to study.
- Or you may have decided to educate your child at home because you need a short-term intervention for a particular reason; be in a dispute with your child's school over their education, special needs or behaviour; or in need of a stop-gap whilst waiting for a place at the school you wish your child to attend.

Your decision could be based on a number of the above, or on some other reason personal to you and your child.



Course spotlight

A level History of Art

Developed in partnership with the Association for Art History, our **A level History of Art** course is a course often not included in schools.

Maybe your child are looking to study history of art or architecture at university? This course will provide the perfect basis for higher education.

We encourage parents to get involved with your child's study and this course provides plenty of opportunity to explore the world of art through museums, books and our online materials.

Course spotlight

GCSE Astronomy

From stars and constellations, the solar system and nebulae; to cosmology and space exploration; our interactive GCSE Astronomy online course will enable you to explore space through engaging resources, at your own pace.



How did NEC respond to the cancellation of the GCSE and A level exams in summer 2020?

To slow the spread of Covid-19, on Friday 20th March 2020 schools and all other educational settings across the UK were closed to students except the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. This meant the cancellation of exams due to take place in summer 2020.

Following the announcement that exams had been cancelled, as an approved exam centre NEC was in a unique position to help our students by providing centre-assessed grades for eligible students. Grades have been produced by assessors taking into account evidence from tutor-marked assignments, non-examination assessment (NEA) and mock exam results. The grades have been submitted to the awarding bodies for standardisation.

For more information on NEC's exam service, see page 16.

Find out more on our [website](#). We have also included information for A level students planning to move on to higher education.



"I could not be more impressed with how NEC has dealt with the unprecedented situation of the Covid-19 outbreak. As the situation developed, they were always updating me as soon as information was available, and I always felt that they had my best interests at heart at every step. NEC hasn't left me not knowing what is happening and all communications with them have been clear, with all of my questions and concerns answered promptly. With summer exams being cancelled, by offering centre-assessed grades NEC are making sure that any future applications are not delayed, and students are not left waiting for exam centres to reopen in order to get a grade." - Justyna



Effective route for home educated children, combining a good mix of distance learning with tutor support. As a mum I'm so pleased I found NEC - Suzy



Staggeringly simple solution to my child struggling with the change of learning pace at sixth form. She found independent school sixth form to be very different to GCSE. Far fewer lessons. Lots of hanging around. Too much common room time and not enough study. It became obvious the fees did not represent value for money. When I phoned NEC I was staggered at the low cost and high concentration of information. It has proven an ideal solution for us. If you or your child likes independent learning at home but with the back up of a tutor - this is the the low-cost, high-effect way to go. Phew. If you are used to paying independent school fees, the switch to NEC will put your bank account into ecstasies. - Terrence



Exceptional tutors and incredibly helpful customer services, nothing seemed too much trouble. Very understanding of my daughters situation and difficulties for which I'm very grateful. I think the GCSE courses are great value though probably not the cheapest available but most certainly worth every penny. My daughter intends to stay with the NEC for her A levels so she's clearly happy too. - Fiona

How to become a home educator

If your child has never been to school, you only need to commence education at compulsory school age. If your child is in school, you must send a notice to the school stating that the child's place is no longer required as they will be home educated*.

Parents can choose any approach that suits their child and family circumstances. They need not use a set curriculum, but for those who wish to use the National Curriculum, here are some tips from one of NEC's home educating families that may be helpful.

1. Select your course provider and how to study

There's a wide range of possibilities so you need to consider the level of support you need, your confidence in going it alone, your family circumstances and the financial aspects. Options include, distance learning courses, tutor led sessions – in person or online, working through course and syllabus textbooks on your own, or a combination of these.

2. Plan your home education journey

Get to know more about the option you've chosen and how it works. If applicable get to know the tutors; ask advice about making the most of your child's studies. Making a timetable isn't a necessity but many parents find it useful to do so – especially important if your child will be taking exams. They'll need time to complete the course and time for revision.

3. Talk to other home educators

You don't need to be an expert in a subject to support your child through their course. Learn from the experiences of other home educators – particularly helpful if your child will be studying for exams such as GCSEs. Ask them about choosing the subjects to study, fitting learning around other activities and preparing for exams.

4. Think about exams

If your child is intending to take exams, arranging your child's exams can be one of the most stressful parts of being a home educator. Think about how they will take their exams and prepare well in advance. Check the exam centre accepts external candidates or choose to study with a provider, like NEC, who can offer authenticate and mark NEA where applicable and a [seamless exam service](#).

5. Balance structure with opportunity

Home education is flexible, take time to find a pattern that works for you. It could be:

- an unstructured approach, your child learns by following interests
- a set curriculum
- a semi-structured approach combining a bit of both.

You may find your approach changes over time as you discover new opportunities to learn.

*(Education (pupil registration)(England) Regulations 2006) 8 1(d), or Education (pupil registration)(Wales) Regulations 2010 8 1 (d).

(continued)

6. Regularly check how your child is doing

If you are home educating your child they may be studying subjects that would not be available to them at school. Make sure they complete any assignments or assessments to check their learning and understanding, keep in contact with their tutor if they have one, and get feedback on their work; it's important preparation for exams.

7. Make the most of the support available

Look at all the resources available to you so that your child can make the most of their studies and organise their learning. It may help if you watch videos, keep a learning diary, record what you have done to keep their learning on track. If they have a tutor, keep in contact with them – not just when completing assignments or assessments.

8. It's not all about the learning

It's important that your child has time for their interests whether that's playing sport, dance classes, attending clubs, or simply going out with friends. You should also include regular breaks during their day to go outside, or to go for a walk. Outside learning through trips to theatres, museums and other places of interest, can form an integral part of holistic education.

9. Talk about the future

Once they've completed their course your child can start their revision and take advantage of any support available such as past papers or revision tutorials. Make sure you ask how their revision is going. Talk about the future but also the importance of not setting things in stone as their plans and opportunities may change over time.

10. Consider what your child will gain from the experience

You may find that by planning a timetable to fit learning around your lifestyle you'll be providing your child with valuable skills for their future. They'll learn:

- useful self-study skills
- how to plan their own work
- how to seek and ask for advice
- to identify the time they need to complete a specific task.

Anna and Lucy are a mother and daughter who pursued their home educating journey with NEC. Here is a link to their home education story on our [blog](#).

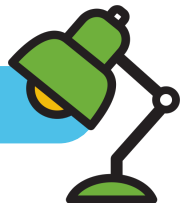


Planning your journey

Educating your child at home is a major commitment of time, energy and money and there are some things that you will need in place before you get started.

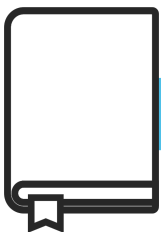
Getting started: what your child will need to study effectively at home

Somewhere comfortable for your child to learn



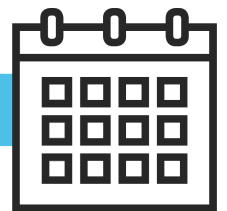
Space to store their papers, books, binders and anything else they are using for their learning

Access to a computer (this doesn't have to be in their own work area)



Access to equipment to support a range of learning activities

A study schedule displayed in a prominent place (if required)



Your child may find it useful to use a diary or notebook, which can be paper or online, to help them keep track of what they have studied



Case Study

From NEC to Oxford University

After leaving school at 13, Ella studied A level English Literature and A level Classical Civilisation with NEC. After gaining an A* and A grade respectively she's now off to Oxford to read English and German.

Ella's experience of schooling was not very positive and once she was able to study at her own pace it was important for her to work quickly through the curriculum, taking four A levels in one year rather than two. NEC made this possible. *"I chose NEC because it is a well-established and respected distance learning provider and was very clear about what it offers",* she says

Impressed with the support she received from her personal tutors, especially when thinking about the demands of the exams, Ella found her course materials clear and easy to work with. Her advice to anyone thinking about home education: *"Plan out your time correctly and be consistent – you have to be strict and disciplined with yourself in order to succeed".*

All her hard work paid off for Ella and led to her studying at Oxford, her university of choice.



Approaches to learning at home

Four approaches to learning at home: what they mean for the student

Formal school	Wakes up at set time, gets dressed in smart clothes, and studies a range of subjects from a timetable with breaks built in.
Informal school	Gets up at no specific time and studies a range of subjects from a loose plan that they may divert from to pursue points that may interest them.
Topic-based studies	Together, choose a topic of interest and do a project on it. This might involve reading, visits outside the home, and talking to people who are specialists in the topics being studied.
Autonomous education	You and your child freely follow your child's interests, with them setting the pace.

There are a number of different ways for home educators to provide a suitable education to their child. Parents can take on the role of tutor; or employ a private tutor for all subjects, or just those subjects they feel less confident in teaching themselves. Some parents take an unstructured approach to the education and others use Flexi-schooling, where the child attends school some of the time.

Distance learning courses are an excellent way to provide structured learning with tutor support at GCSE and A level.



What can NEC offer?

Parent Portal

Upon enrolment, we will give you access to our Parent Portal:

- Your own login to our online learning platform learn@nec (www.nec.ac.uk/learn-at-nec/), to access their course so you can view the course materials and other information for yourself.
- Access to your child's gradebook to help you to monitor their progress and provide appropriate and timely intervention and support.
- You'll receive emails and have access to forum posts so that you have all the exams and assessment updates and information provided by the NEC team.
- Dedicated Parent Portal pages and targeted blogs with updates, information, help and advice on many aspects of home education.
- Access to the Kudos career platform for young learners to explore career options.

Find out more about home schooling with NEC at <https://www.nec.ac.uk/home-educators/>.



Legal requirements for education in the UK

Full-time education suitable to a child's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs (SEN) they have is compulsory for all children of school age in the UK. (Source: Education Act 1996, s7)

They must be in receipt of full-time education, but this does not have to be in a school. The responsibility for a child's education lies with their parents and all parents are legally entitled to choose to educate their child at home until they reach compulsory school leaving age.

The ages for compulsory education are different depending on which part of the UK you live in. You can find the details for where you live at www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school.

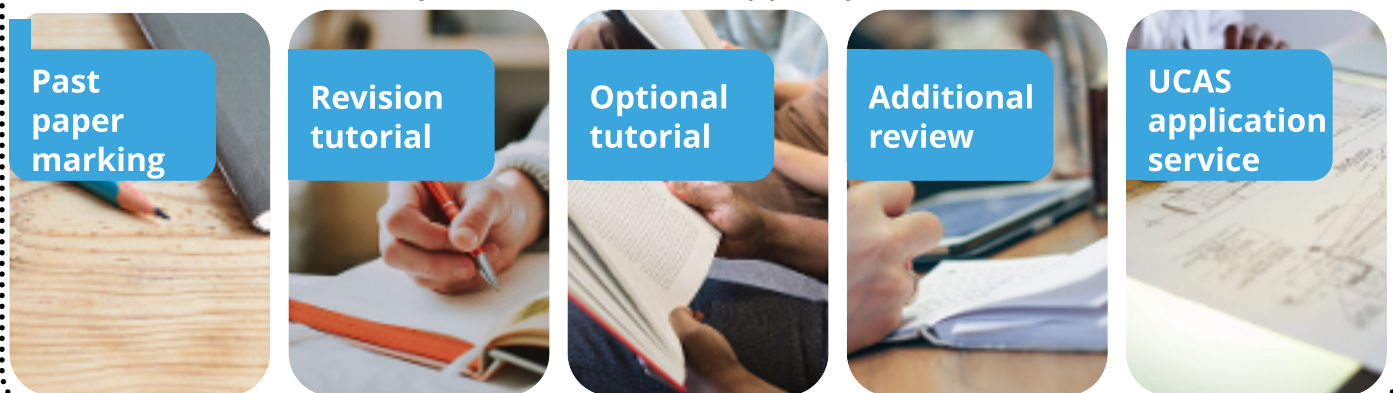
If you choose to home educate your child you can find out more about your legal requirements here: www.gov.uk/home-education.

The NEC service at a glance

- ✓ Help with booking special access arrangements for exams
- ✓ Guaranteed exam place with exam booking service
- ✓ Access to the Kudos career platform
- ✓ Access to your child's gradebook
- ✓ Emails and access to forums to receive updates from the NEC team e.g. about exams
- ✓ Carefully designed learning materials
- ✓ Access to blogs, information and support
- ✓ An experienced tutor who will mark assignments and coursework

You will need to budget for exam costs, some textbooks and an assessment by an educational psychologist (if you are needing to book access arrangements). Further details can be found on our [website](#).

Additional services - so you can tailor the support you need



Which courses should you choose?

We are often asked for advice about the best courses to choose for a particular career. So, what should your child consider when choosing a course?

Will the course get them to where they want to go?

If your child is planning to go on to a specific further or higher education course, always check with the college or university that the subjects they choose will meet the entry requirements as these may vary between institutions.



NEC has a series of free practical [Career Tracks Guides](#) covering the careers that are most popular with NEC students. Each guide looks at the reasons for choosing a career, routes into the profession and the qualifications, qualities and skills that are needed.

Career Tracks: Nursing

Career Tracks: Teaching

Career Tracks: Physiotherapy

Career Tracks: Midwifery

Career Tracks: Paramedics

Career Tracks: Police Officer

For full details of what's needed for each of these popular careers download our Career Tracks Guides here: <https://www.nec.ac.uk/career-tracks/>.

NEC courses offer a wide range of subject choices at both GCSE and A level.

Here are some popular choices of subjects that our students often choose to study in pairs or as a group of related courses.

English language

GCSE & A level

The English language is all around us and can be used to inspire, motivate and challenge us in countless different ways. Explore and develop the use of words in different contexts and use what you learn in your own writing to entertain, inform, persuade and get your point across.

Maths

GCSE & A level

We use maths skills every day, often without realising it, to solve millions of little problems. It helps us to make sense of the numbers that we come across regularly like percentages, fractions and geometry, enables us to solve problems, to think logically, and is essential for many careers.

Some subjects that develop independent thinking and critical analysis skills

English literature

GCSE & A level

Immerse yourself in a range of literary works as you learn about character building, plot structure and narrative and gain an understanding of how to read and analyse texts as a critical and independent reader.

History of Art

A level

By learning to read imagery, you'll develop the necessary skills to better understand the world around us through critical and analytical thinking. You'll draw logical conclusions and develop reasoned arguments and methodical skills that form a good basis for a career in the arts or preparation for higher education.

Classical Civilisation

A level

The ancient Greeks and Romans shaped the literature, language, arts, politics and philosophy of the western world. Step back in time to understand the legacy that the classical world left us through the study of a diverse range of ancient literature, thought and culture covering both social and historical contexts.

Philosophy

A level

Exploring some big questions concerning reality and existence, philosophy promotes independent thinking and develops your skills so that you can produce rational arguments.

You could also choose to pair the study of [A level Philosophy](#) with our [A level Religious Studies](#) course.

Sciences

Biology

IGCSE & A level

Develop knowledge and understanding of living organisms such as plants, animals and bacteria as you study life – from the complexity of the human body to simple protozoa. Biology is essential if you plan to go on to a career in medicine, nursing or even zoology.

Chemistry

IGCSE & A level

Explore the principles of chemistry and the science of substances, their properties and interactions. Even carry out some experiments at home using everyday materials as you learn about chemical reactions. You could use what you learn to work in pharmaceuticals, food chemistry or a career in forensic science.

Physics

IGCSE & A level

Look at how things work from the smallest particles to large galaxies as you learn about energy, matter and motion through space and time. There are experiments you can do at home, and what you learn could inspire you to choose a career as an engineer or planetary scientist.

Astronomy

GCSE

This fascinating course, which you could also pair with maths, explores the universe and our position in it. Learn about Earth's solar system and beyond, investigate the movement of planets and stars and how they are formed, and observe the night sky in order to develop your scientific and maths skills.

If you wish to study science at GCSE level you could opt to study our [IGCSE Combined Science](#) course or our [IGCSE Double Science Award](#) course rather than choosing these single science courses.

Modern foreign languages

French

IGCSE & A level

French is the second most widely learned language after English. Our IGCSE course develops vocabulary and understanding of French whilst our A level will equip you to deal with social and work situations in French-speaking countries as you master the language and learn about the culture and society of France.

Spanish

IGCSE & A level

Our IGCSE Spanish course is suitable for anyone who knows a little Spanish and wants to study the language. Our A level will then progress your understanding of Spanish, one of the world's most widely spoken languages, to the next level as you learn about Spain and its culture.

Studying a language enables us to get to know people and their culture and unlocks a wealth of opportunities.

Business, finance, economics, politics and law

Economics

A level

Economics makes a big impact on our lives from the cost of goods to how much we earn, the tax we pay, unemployment levels and investments. You'll look at the contribution that economics makes to the wider social environment, how we allocate resources, and measure the impact of our choices.

Business

IGCSE & A level

Learn about the fascinating world of business in a range of industries in a global environment. Studying business develops sound reasoning and leadership skills like decision-making and problem-solving. You'll demonstrate an analytical approach that will prove valuable in a range of business processes such as marketing, operations and finance.

Law

A level

Studying law develops analytical, critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as essay writing, research and debating skills. Covering the nature of English law and the English legal system, private law, public law and legal skills, A level Law provides a stepping-stone to studying this fascinating but complex subject further.

Politics

A level

Focusing on the UK political system and its history, institution and processes, this course also discusses and explores US politics in order to contrast and compare the two systems. As you study you'll be building critical thinking, analysis and research skills that can lead to a wide range of careers.

Psychology and sociology

Psychology

GCSE & A level

The study of the mind, psychology will develop your knowledge of memory, perception, the brain and neuropsychology as you investigate and analyse the complexities of human behaviour. There are plenty of fascinating insights into human moods and behaviour and a wide range of careers where knowledge of psychology is useful.

Sociology

GCSE & A level

Sociology concerns itself with the study of social behaviour, its origins, development and organisation. From race and gender identity, to criminal behaviour, inequality, religion and family conflict it explains how humans behave and interact with one another and can help to improve the society we live in.

An ideal combination of courses for a career in the charitable sector, as a social worker, counsellor or police officer.

History and geography

History

IGCSE & A level

History looks at key historical events, people and societies to expand understanding and enable us to ask questions about the past. By evaluating and assessing primary and secondary sources of information history shows us how political, social and economic events in Britain's past have shaped our society today.

Geography

IGCSE

Geography is crucial in helping us to understand and tackle issues such as natural disasters, population growth and food security. You'll explore the power of nature, and how we interact with and impact upon the natural environment and our role in climate change.

Geography helps to inform the study of history and the two subjects are popular study partners.

Visit our website for more information on all our courses:

Explore NEC's GCSE courses

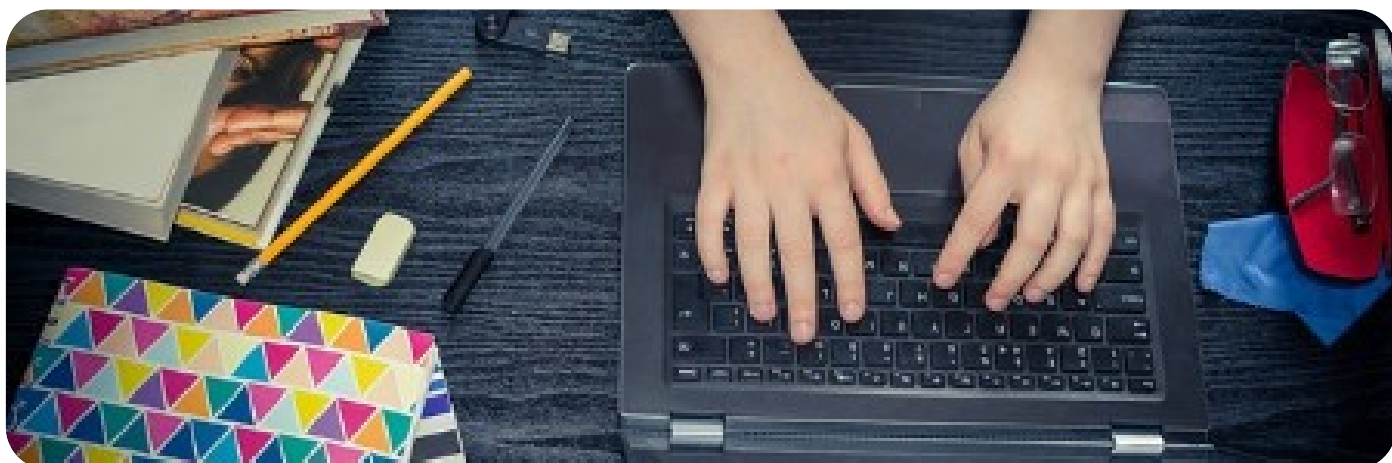


Explore NEC's A level courses



Advice for students taking A levels

UCAS provides a wide range of information and advice for students planning to take A levels, from who should take an A level and the grades needed to access an A level course to choosing the subject that's right for you. Find out more on their website.



Fast Track A levels

Many NEC students opt to study their A level course within a year. This is particularly useful if they are studying with a specific purpose in mind, like going to university, and need their grades quickly or retaking a subject and still want to apply to their chosen university.

Whilst we recommend that for standard A levels students consider studying over two years, we understand that sometimes they have deadlines that simply can't wait. If your child feels able to study an A level in a year and to achieve their desired grade, we have developed four highly structured Fast Track A levels.

Structured Fast Track A levels in biology, chemistry, physics maths, and psychology

With a set start date, structured approach and tutorials, we've designed these courses to help students complete an A level within a year and gain the grades they need.

The flexible nature of distance learning and home study courses means that it's possible to do this, as long as they are able to schedule in enough study time. What's different about these structured Fast Track A level courses is that they have been specifically designed to follow a carefully considered 31-week study programme, providing students with the extra support they need to gain those all-important grades.

Each structured Fast Track A level features:

- a comprehensive induction programme
- a small cohort of students
- a schedule of work which has been carefully considered to help students complete the course within a year
- live tutorials throughout the course
- past paper marking
- personal tutor support, including a mid-course review.

The Fast Track A levels have been written and developed to give students the additional support they need. By accessing group forums and live tutorials covering each topic of their course they'll be able to share ideas with fellow cohorts and ask questions of their tutor 'in-class'.

Find out more

Structured Fast Track:

- [A level Biology](#)
- [A level Chemistry](#)
- [A level Maths](#)
- [A level Physics](#)
- [A level Psychology](#)

If your child doesn't choose one of these structured Fast Track A levels but is still aiming to take another GCSE or A level within a year, read more about what you'll need to consider at www.nec.ac.uk/fast-track.



Exams and non-examination assessment (NEA) information for home educators

If your child is studying GCSE, AS or A level courses they will need to sit an exam to get their qualification. Exams are governed by the awarding organisation for the qualification and are strictly controlled – they can only be sat on certain dates and at registered exam centres.

Some A level and GCSE subjects include non-examination assessments (NEA), this could be coursework or a practical science or language endorsement.

If you are booking your own exam centre you must make sure that you enter your child for the correct exams, and should book their exam place at least 4/5 months before the exam date – make sure you check the booking deadline with the exam centre you have chosen. You will need the full course title, awarding organisation details and specification number. If the course your child is studying includes oral exams, practical science or language endorsements you must make sure that the exam centre can cover these. Exam fees are not included in course fees and will depend on the exam centre you choose and whether the subject involves oral exams or endorsements.

NEC offers an exam booking service taking the hassle out of the process.

NEC's exam booking service

At NEC we have put a lot of work into building a seamless exam booking service for all students who are enrolled on one of our courses. Because NEC is an approved exam centre we are in a unique position of being able to offer a guaranteed exam place for all NEC students at one of our partnership exam centres based across England. We are able to cover all types of exams and non-examination assessment (NEA) including:

- written exams
- oral exams
- coursework
- practical science endorsements
- spoken language endorsements

Finding an exam centre and making sure your child is correctly entered for their exam(s) can be stressful. If you wish your child to sit an exam at one of NEC's partnership exam centres our exams team can arrange this for you.

If your child is enrolled on a course with NEC you can find out more about exams on learn@nec.



"Effective route for home educated children, combining a good mix of distance learning with tutor support. As a mum I'm so pleased I found NEC." - Suzy, parent

NEC has an exams guide for all students who are planning to enter exams as private candidates. You can download a copy from our website at www.nec.ac.uk/exams-and-assessment/.

Pearson Edexcel provides some useful advice for private candidates taking subjects with an NEA element.



How can NEC help?

NEC offer online courses in a wide range of subjects at GCSE and A level. All students are supported by a personal tutor with a teaching qualification and who has been DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked. When you've made your choice of course(s) you can enrol at any time and your child can begin studying right away, whenever it suits them.

Essential GCSE qualifications

GCSEs are almost always needed to get into college or university and are recognised by employers and training providers in the UK as evidence of formal educational achievement. [GCSE English Language](#) and [GCSE Maths](#) in particular are widely required to access further or higher education, apprenticeship programmes and many careers. NEC's online GCSE English and maths courses are designed specifically for independent learners and come with everything your child needs to study the subject.

Funding options

Depending on your circumstances, and sometimes your location, some local authorities or charities may be able to make a contribution.

You can also pay for NEC courses in monthly instalments. There is more information about this on our [website](#).

Resources for home educators

To home educate effectively, you'll need access to a range of materials and resources. You could use:

- books, newspapers and magazines you have at home in paper or digital format
- books, CDs and DVDs borrowed from your local library – there may be a small fee for borrowing CDs and DVDs
- creative and craft items, science kits, flash cards, board games and card games
- the reference section of your local library and the library catalogue, which you can use to request resources kept in the archive
- museums, art galleries, botanical gardens, theatres and other venues open to the public who often have educational resources that are free or low cost
- if you live near a university you can join the university library as a guest member for a small fee
- online resources about the topics your child is interested in – make sure you check who published them so that you know they are an authoritative source.

Educational resources and exam support

OpenLearn

As part of the Open University, [OpenLearn](#) offers over 900 free online courses covering a broad range of subjects, at various levels of difficulty and time commitment. For students wanting to enter Higher Education but unsure of their next step, or those seeking to supplement their home education, these courses are a valuable resource.

BBC Bitesize

[BBC Bitesize](#) is a free online resource from the BBC, supporting the studies of children at both primary and secondary school ages. It also provides revision resources for GCSEs, tailored to exam specifications and a support page with advice for parents and students with topics including exam advice, higher education choices and mental health.

The Maths Factor

Part of Pearson Education, [The Maths Factor](#) is an online maths school with a monthly subscription for children aged 4-12, following the national curriculum and acting as an educational support resource for parents and home learning. Parents can have access to their child's progress and account settings as well as the Maths Factor blog.

Cambridge University Press

[Cambridge University Press](#) provides a collection of free worksheets, online resources and homeschooling advice. Exam course books, workbooks and subject textbooks can also be bought from Cambridge University Press, covering the curriculum and syllabuses for different exam boards.

Homeschool History

[Homeschool History](#) from BBC Radio 4 is a resource for short, homeschool history lessons, presented by Greg Jenner from Horrible Histories and covering a broad range of historical topics.

Tutors and Exams

[Tutors and Exams](#) is a registered exam centre and has been partnered with NEC since 2015, providing exam places for our students. Tutors and Exams is particularly catered to the home education community, and offers open days explaining the process of exams with mock exam rooms.

Advice and information for parents

Education Otherwise

[Education Otherwise](#) is a registered charity supporting home education by providing useful information and a membership-based community. It aims to support parents' right to educate their children in an "otherwise" way to the school system. A directory of local groups and forums can also be found on their website, as well as useful educational and exam-orientated resources.

Mumsnet

[Mumsnet](#) is a website for parents, hosting discussion forums where parents can share advice and information. Discussion forums and advice on home educating can be found from parents with more experience or those with similar questions.

Parliament on home education

This page features a [report](#) from the House of Commons library titled 'Home Education in England' and is informative on the legal requirements of homeschooling in England, whilst also covering proposed areas for reform. The report notes a parents right to educate their child at home, stressing that education rather than schooling is compulsory and goes on to discuss issues such as the responsibility of schools, local authorities and funding and support.

Keeping children safe online

The [NSPCC](#) is the leading children's charity in the UK specialising in child protection. Information about online safety and advice for parents can be found on their website. NEC is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and will require the consent of a parent or guardian to hold information about learners under the age of 18.

StarLine

[Starline](#) is a national helpline for home learning offering expert advice for parents and carers. Their support line is confidential and can help with a broad range of issues from curriculum to special educational needs, home learning strategies and resources to support home learning. StarBlogs also offers advice on a wide range of questions that parents may have, and can be found on the StarLine website.

Home Education in the UK

[Home Education in the UK](#) is an organisation offering advice and further resources on home education. It offers a comprehensive collection of guides and resources with useful links to educational resources and local communities.

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Why NEC?



NEC's student support and help in making arrangements for the exams stands out.

Isobel, A level Biology, Chemistry and Psychology

Our mission is simple: NEC seeks to widen learning opportunities for learners who want flexible delivery of excellent and innovative courses.

We help our students to open doors to their futures, through life-changing learning. In particular we offer educational opportunities and second-chance learning to people for whom attending regular classes at school or college would not be possible.



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