



# Why study?



# English

## How studying GCSE **English** could lead to a job at Sizewell C

### What does **English** have to do with the nuclear industry?

English is an essential skill for most people working in the UK, and that's certainly true on a large nuclear project such as Sizewell C. Virtually all of the site's documents, guidelines, signage and other written content is in English, so a strong grasp of it will be fundamental to understanding instructions and communicating effectively in any on-site role.

An English or English Language GCSE will be particularly useful for information and document management roles. It's also an important asset for anyone in a management position, who's likely to lean on their English skills when crafting emails and other written content.

### Careers at Sizewell C

Some of the careers at Sizewell C revolve around the use of language. For example, **document controllers** work with technical documents like blueprints and reports, so they need good English skills and a thorough approach<sup>1</sup>. A **project controls professional**<sup>2</sup> also spends a lot of time analysing documents: they're vital to making sure the project meets its time, cost and quality goals. **Commercial lawyers** need to be focused on the detail of the legal agreements between the plant operators and their partners.

GCSE English is a requirement for most other roles, and having it can help you deliver your best work. Take the role of a **hospitality supervisor**<sup>3</sup>, who will help manage Sizewell C's onsite accommodation. They'll use English skills to plan and organise their team, and to support their leadership and management responsibilities. **HR business partners** work with senior managers to make sure the organisation has suitably skilled staff to meet its objectives, while **communications managers** work daily to promote the business and share its news; both roles demand exceptional English skills.





## Career pathways using English

- Apprenticeships are a common route into roles like being a document controller, electrical technician or engineer. Find out more on the government's [Apprenticeships website](#) or have a look for [Sizewell C apprenticeships](#).
- You're likely to need a degree for roles such as communications manager or HR business partner. Having one may improve your employment prospects in other positions, too.
- In some cases, an internship or industrial placement may help you gain your first experience of a role or industry.
- EDF is working with local schools and colleges, such as [East Coast College \(Lowestoft\)](#), [Suffolk New College](#) and [West Suffolk College](#), so have a look at their websites for pathway courses too.

## English skills



An English GCSE can help you develop and use many skills, particularly **listening** and **speaking**. Both are absolutely vital when working in a complex, multi-team environment like Sizewell C.



English can also be a way to express **creativity**, which can be a great help in **problem-solving** the unique challenges posed by a large nuclear project.



Your English GCSE, and the skills you develop while learning, could also help you demonstrate **leadership**. For example by creating better emails, presentations or other documents.



## Useful links

**icanbea...** Career ideas and opportunities in Norfolk and Suffolk  
**Young SZC:** Connecting young people to careers and apprenticeships in the region  
**BBC Bitesize:** What GCSEs should I take?  
**BBC:** Jobs that use English

- <https://www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/what-jobs-are-right-for-me/document-controller/>
- <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/project-controls-professional-v1-0>
- <https://www.ccn.ac.uk/16-18/subject-areas/hospitality-and-catering/course/hospitality-supervisor-apprenticeship-level-3-standard/>
- Inspired by <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbmv2sg/articles/zkpg2p#zjvk8hv5>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_languages\\_by\\_number\\_of\\_native\\_speakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_number_of_native_speakers)
- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/266808/the-most-spoken-languages-worldwide/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_lingua\\_franca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_lingua_franca)

All information correct at the time of going to print in December 2023.  
 Some of the images come from our sister project, Hinkley Point C, in Somerset.

## English in action

English can help you work out the meaning of technical sounding words, even if you've never seen them before<sup>4</sup>. Look for root words, and common prefixes and suffixes, like the examples below:

Root words	Meaning
fiss-	To split
flex-	Bent
radiate-	Emitted in rays
sonic-	Sound
<b>Prefixes</b>	
in-	Not
sub-	Below
ultra-	Beyond or above
<b>Suffixes</b>	
-able or -ible	Can be done
-ile	Tending to do something
-ion	An act or process

### 1. What do you think the following words mean?

- Fissile
- Flexion
- Ultrasonic

### 2. Can you use these roots, prefixes and suffixes to create words that mean:

- The process of splitting
- Emitting rays
- Can't be bent

### 3. Can you think of a word where the 'in-' prefix means 'into', rather than 'not'?

**Clue 1:** It means the same thing when you take the prefix away

**Clue 2:** Getting it wrong could cause a hot mess!

## Did you know?

With 380 million native speakers<sup>5</sup>, English is third on the list of world languages, but it has more than 1.4 billion speakers overall<sup>6</sup>. This makes it the world's biggest *lingua franca*<sup>7</sup>: a language used between two people who have different mother tongues.

**Answers:**  
 Q1. a) tending to split b) the action of bending or the condition of being bent c) literally 'beyond sound'  
 Q2. a) fission b) radiation c) inflexible  
 Q3. inflammable