Introducing HE Activity 1

Teacher Notes: What is Higher Education (HE)?

Let's find out what you already know about HE.

Tick True, False or answer A, B, C to each of the following statements.

Hint: think about the slide you just saw – some of the answers were mentioned on there!

Statement	True	False	A, B or C
1 You must be wealthy to go to HE		✓	
2 You must be really clever to go to HE		✓	
3 You can only study a HE course at a university		✓	
4 You need GCSE passes (grade 4 or above) in maths and English for most HE courses	✓		
5 Most people start HE at 18	✓		
6 You must move away from home to go to HE		✓	
7 You must have passed some A Levels before you can start HE		✓	
8 Students at some HE providers are NOT allowed to get a part time job while they are studying	✓		

Statement	True	False	A, B or C
9 There are around 50,000 different courses available across all HE providers in the UK	✓		
10 Approximately, how many HE providers are there in the UK: A) 250 B) 400 C) 675			B
11 How many HE providers are there in the **North East of England**? A) 8 B) 15 C) 21 ***Bonus question:*** *How many can you name?* *(write your answers here):*			C
12 Approximately, how many students are studying at HE providers in the UK? A) 1.1 million B) 1.5 million C) 2.6 million			C
13 Approximately, how many students are studying a HE qualification at a further education college in England? A) 54,000 B) 118,000 C) 222,000			B
14 Business Management was the most popular subject to study in 2020	✓		

Statement	True	False	A, B or C
15 Girls are less likely to apply for which of the following subjects: A) Engineering and technology B) Law C) Art and design			A
16 People who have a HE qualification earn on average around £10,000 a year more than people who haven't got a HE qualification	✓		
17 At Durham University, ghosts are rumoured to walk the grounds	✓		

Bonus question: *Why do you think this is the case?*

Supplementary Information For Quiz Answers To Facilitate Classroom Discussion

1 You must be wealthy to go onto HE = FALSE

This is a common misconception amongst learners and parents particularly apparent in lower income families where debt is viewed as bad/unnecessary. It is important therefore that learners understand the following:

- An HE qualification is necessary for some careers, for example to be a doctor or a vet.
- An HE qualification should be viewed as an investment in their future.
- There is financial support to help to pay for HE in the forms of loans for tuition fees and living costs. Finance for HE is covered in a separate session.

2 You must be really clever to go onto HE = FALSE

Learners sometimes make the assumption that HE is only for clever/top set learners. It's important that learners understand that:

- Whilst some courses are very academic/classroom-based such as medicine and law, others are very practical and hands-on such as product design, engineering or nursing. This is particularly apparent in higher and degree apprenticeship programmes where 80% of the learning takes place at work.
- Not all HE courses are assessed via exams – many include high elements of course work.
- Stress the range of courses available, possibly highlighting some unusual examples.

3 You can only study an HE qualification at a university = FALSE

Learners often assume that HE only happens at universities. It's important that learners can identify different types of HE provider including FE colleges that offer HE courses. It's also important to mention the Open University, which allows learners to study alongside other commitments and in bite-sized chunks. Make use of the table on the lesson plan titled 'HE Providers in the NE Region' to highlight FE institutions that offer HE courses in your local area to provide examples that learners may recognise.

4 You need GCSE passes (grade 4 or above) in maths and English for most HE courses = TRUE

All HE courses have minimum entry requirements. These differ enormously from course to course, depending on the subject, level of course and institution. It may be helpful to give some examples of course entry requirements. UCAS, www.ucas.com has a excellent course search facility where you can research course entry requirements but as a general rule if learners DO NOT have maths and English (included within a minimum of 4/5 GCSE passes) they may not be able to progress to the their chosen Level 3 or HE course. The message here is about future proofing themselves for whatever pathway they choose.

6 You must move away from home to go to HE = FALSE

Many HE students are choosing to live at home rather than move away. This is a chance to discuss the pros and cons of living at home-vs-moving away such as:

Living at home can mean saving money through having no accommodation costs, benefitting from 'home comforts' and not having to be away from parents, family, friends. Whilst living at university or college (halls of residence or in private rented accommodation) can be more expensive (although most students get a loan to help pay for their living costs), students can get a more immersive HE experience with an increased level of independence and the opportunity to build new skills and experiences (cooking for yourself/managing your own money).

7 You must have passed some A Levels before you can start HE = FALSE

A Levels are just ONE route to HE. Colleges and universities accept many other equivalent Level 3 qualifications including T Levels and BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas – both of which are equivalent to three full A Levels and are routes to HE. HE qualifications can also be accessed via a work based learning route such as higher and degree apprenticeships. Routes to HE are covered in Session 2 of this programme.

8 **Students at some HE providers are NOT allowed to get a part time job while they are studying = TRUE**

A very small number of universities including Cambridge University do not allow their students to have a part time job during term time. There are two reasons:
a) They see part time work as a potential distraction from time spent studying
b) Their terms are very short giving students significant periods to access part time jobs in the holidays. However, it is important to make the point that most HE students do work part time (during term time) to help fund their living costs.

11 **HE providers in the NE region – see table below:**

Institution	University	College	HE Provider
Bishop Auckland College		Yes	Yes
Darlington College		Yes	Yes
Derwentside College		Yes	
Durham University	Yes		Yes
East Durham College		Yes	Yes
Gateshead College		Yes	Yes
Hartlepool College of FE		Yes	Yes
Middlesbrough College		Yes	Yes
New College Durham		Yes	Yes
Newcastle College		Yes	Yes
Newcastle University	Yes		Yes
Northumberland College		Yes	Yes
Northumbria University	Yes		Yes
Prior Pursglove		Yes	
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College		Yes	
Redcar & Cleveland College		Yes	Yes
Tyne Coast College (South Tyneside College)		Yes	Yes
Stockton Riverside College		Yes	Yes
Stockton Sixth Form College		Yes	
Sunderland College		Yes	Yes
Teesside University	Yes		Yes
The Northern School of Art (Hartlepool Campus)		Yes	Yes
The Northern School of Art (Middelesbrough Campus)		Yes	Yes
Tyne Coast College (Tyne Met College)		Yes	Yes
University of Sunderland	Yes		Yes

15 **Girls are less likely to apply for engineering and technology**

Despite years of 'Girls into Engineering/STEM' initiatives, in today's labour market only 1 in 8 engineering jobs are filled by women. This is a good chance to discuss why this might be. For example, it may be the case in your school that girls are less likely to pick triple science, IT or resistant materials/design technology as GCSE options. Why is this?

Sources Used For Quiz

Please note:

Statistics can vary slightly depending on the source used.

It may be difficult to find statistics relating to the current academic year. It may therefore be necessary to use statistics from the previous year.

The sources quoted below are credible and can be consulted if you wish to update the statistics quoted in this resource.

There are around 50,000 different courses available across all HE providers in the UK
https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/international-and-eu-students/why-study-uk

How many HE providers are there in the UK
https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/international-and-eu-students/why-study-uk

How many students are currently studying at HE providers in the UK
https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7857/#:~:text=In%202020%2F21%20there%20were,at%20UK%20higher%20education%20institutions

Business management was the most popular subject to study in 2020
https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/publications/higher-education-facts-and-figures-2021

People who have an HE qualification earn on average around £10,000 a year more than people who haven't got an HE qualification
https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/publications/higher-education-facts-and-figures-2021