WHY ONLY 10 GCSE’S?

Reading teachers’ and students’ accounts of the immense stress and mental health issues caused by the introduction of the new GCSE exams this year is heartbreaking. “The new GCSEs have broken my best students, left some with serious stress-induced illnesses, and isolated the majority, leaving them completely apathetic towards their own learning,” said one teacher. A student reports: “I have seen the mentally toughest people crack and it’s painful to watch. People crying over being unable to do a maths question. Is this what we want as a nation, to be put under this mental stress?”

I’m not saying that adolescents should be spending their time in school doing whatever they want. But there should be time left outside of school to pursue other things, whether it’s music or video games or making YouTube videos or just being teens. Exams might be a necessary evil, but there should be time and space left over for young people to live their lives and discover their passions, instead of piling so much schoolwork on them that they are having panic attacks and migraines en masse.