



LONDON ACADEMY  
OF EXCELLENCE

TOTTENHAM

# **GUIDE TO A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES**

IMPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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For university entry three requirements have to be met:

- **The General Requirement** for entry to any department of the university. This requirement will be met by almost all of our candidates who go on to pass two A Level subjects.
- **The Course Requirement** in terms of passes in specified subjects at GCSE and at A Level. For some courses certain subjects are preferred without being obligatory.
- **The Conditional Place Requirement**, that is the offer of a place made to a candidate provided they attain specified grades in a number of A Level subjects. For many Arts courses the grades achieved in the examinations are much more important than the subjects in which they are gained, except for subjects which are part of the course requirement.

These notes give, in a very condensed form, guidance to the A Level course requirements and preferences for many of the single subjects commonly studied at university. The inclusion of an A Level subject, or combination of subjects, indicates that it fulfils the entrance requirements of most, but not necessarily all, universities. There may be a few universities whose requirements are less stringent than those shown.

A Level subject requirements for science courses are generally more specific and consequently science subjects are prominent in the lists. All university courses can lead to a wide range of career opportunities, many of them not directly related to the subjects studied at university.

University Subject	A Level Requirement or Preference
Agriculture Forestry	Two science subjects: Chemistry often required; Biology often required.
Archaeology	Most courses have no specific requirements, although Latin and Greek preferred by a few; some require a science (especially Chemistry).
Architecture	Some courses require Mathematics; Art is recommended; Design Technology or Physics can help. Pupils considering Architecture must have Art GCSE.
Biochemistry	Chemistry, Biology or Mathematics often required or preferred.
Biological Sciences Biology Forensic Science Zoology Microbiology Biotechnology Genetics	Biology and Chemistry often required.
Business Studies Accountancy Management Studies	Some require or prefer Mathematics; Economics is not usually required.
Chemistry	Chemistry often required; Mathematics or Physics desirable.
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry required with Physics; Mathematics often required.
Classical Studies	Some require or prefer a language.
Classics, Latin, Greek	Latin or Greek required in some courses; it is now possible to start a Classics degree with only a GCSE in Latin/Greek.
Computer Science	Mathematics or Physics required by some. Top institutions prefer Further Mathematics.
Economics	Most require or prefer Mathematics; top institutions prefer Further Mathematics too. Economics useful.
Engineering Aeronautical Civil	Mathematics and Physics required; Top institutions will look for Further Mathematics too. Pupils may usefully take Design Technology as their fourth subject.

Electrical Electronic Marine Mechanical Production	
English	English Literature required by most.
Environmental Science	Various science combinations.
Fine Art	Art A level required by most. Art foundation courses sometimes required.
Food Science Food Technology	Chemistry required; Design Technology can help.
French	French required; a second foreign language can help.
Geography	Geography required by most.
Geology	Two or three subjects required from: Sciences, Geography and Mathematics.
German	German required; a second foreign language often desirable.
History, Ancient History	History or Ancient History required or preferred.
History of Art	History of Art A Level is an advantage but not a requirement.
Law	The quality of A Level passes is much more important than the subjects in which they are gained.
Mandarin	Mandarin Chinese required by some: a second foreign language can often help.
Mathematics	Mathematics required; top institutions require Further Mathematics.
Medicine, Dentistry	Biology and Chemistry required by most; Physics or Mathematics desirable, although a contrasting arts subject can be well regarded as a fourth subject by some medical schools.
Materials Science Metallurgy	Physics and Mathematics required; Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry often required.
Music	Music required by most.
Pharmacy Pharmacology	Chemistry required; Biology and/or Mathematics, and/or Physics, often required.
Philosophy	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Physics	Physics and Mathematics required. Top institutions prefer Further Mathematics.
Physiology	Chemistry often required; Biology, Physics, Mathematics sometimes required.
Politics	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Psychology	One or two science subjects required by Science faculties; no specific requirements by Arts faculties. Maths and Biology useful.
Russian	Russian required by a few; a modern language required.
Social Studies	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Spanish	Spanish required by many; a second foreign language often desirable.
Statistics	Mathematics required.
Theology	No specific requirements, but Theology Pre-U would be usual.
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and Biology required by most.