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Give and expect the best

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INFORMED CHOICES

YEAR 11 Information and Guidance

Post 16 Pathways

Informed Choices

Three reasons you may want to continue to study a subject at a higher level are:

- **You have enjoyed and been good at the subject in the past, and think you will achieve a high grade in it.**
- **You need this subject to enter a particular career or course.**
- **You have not studied the subject before but you have looked into it and think it will suit your strengths.**

Three further considerations should be taken into account:

- **Some subjects are distinctly more difficult at an advanced level than at standard level.**
- **Make sure you get your facts straight. There are many misconceptions about subjects required for courses and careers.**
- **Don't take an uninformed risk. What is the new subject actually about?**

The most important thing that your teachers will be looking for as you make your choices is evidence: either evidence that you are *good enough* to take the subject at advanced level, or evidence that you are *interested enough* in a subject to take it at advanced level if you have not studied it before.

It is important to consider which subjects you think you will achieve high grades in. Low grades are as much a barrier to entry to university as choosing unsuitable subjects for your chosen degree can be.

Another factor to consider if you are aiming for very competitive courses at university, such as Medicine, is that you may require a very high performance in standard level qualifications. Does your performance to date match your ambition?

You should try to find out as much as possible about the post-16 options you are considering. For example, make sure you properly research what you will be studying and speak to teachers or current students to find out more details.

It is important that your decisions are taken on the basis of accurate information and clear thinking. Whatever you choose now will commit you to certain directions at university and perhaps rule out certain careers. As much as you may wish to remain cool about this decision, it *does matter*.

In this booklet are Career Pathways and which subjects are good to take for this pathway.

Subject/ Pathway	Essential A Level / L3 BTEC Subjects	Useful subject qualifications
Accountancy (also Banking/ Finance/ Insurance)	Usually none, although one or two universities require Mathematics	Mathematics, Business, (A Level or BTEC L3) Economics
Actuarial Science/ Studies	Mathematics	Further Maths, Economics, Business (A level or BTEC L3)
Aeronautical Engineering	Mathematics and usually Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology, Computing/ Computer Science.
American Studies	English and/or History	Politics
Anthropology	None	A small number of courses like a science AS or A level such as Biology, or even Sociology
Archaeology	None	Geography, History or Science subjects are useful
Architecture	Some courses may want an Art/Science Mix. Some may require Art	Art, Mathematics, Design Technology, and Physics. Do note that a portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for.
Art and Design	Art or Design Technology	Design Technology, Art and Design. Do note that most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have done a one year Art Foundation Course after completing Year 13 and will require a portfolio.
Biochemistry	Always Chemistry and some universities will say you must have Biology as well. Some may say Chemistry plus one from Maths, Physics / Biology,. Doing Chemistry, Biology and Maths or Physics will keep all Biochemistry courses open to you	Biology, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/ Computer Science
Biology	Biology, usually Chemistry. Universities specify two sciences usually	Mathematics or Physics, Computing/ Computer Science

Biomedical Sciences	Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry is essential for some courses	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics.
Business	None	Mathematics, Business (BTEC Level 3 or A Level) and Economics
Chemical Engineering	Mathematics, usually Chemistry and sometimes Physics as well	Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science
Chemistry	Chemistry and occasionally Mathematics. Most courses require Chemistry and would like Mathematics and one other science subject e.g. Physics or Biology	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computing/Computer Science.
Childhood Studies	None	CACHE, Psychology, Sociology, BTEC/NVQ, Level 3 in Health and Social Care
Civil Engineering	Mathematics, in many cases Physics.	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing/Computer Science, Design Technology, Geography
Classical Studies	Please note not all courses require Greek or Latin but do look for evidence of linguistic ability. For classical studies and classical civilisation courses most subjects will be considered.	Modern Foreign Languages, English Literature, History,
Computer Science	For some courses, Mathematics or Computer Science/ Computing	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing, Computer Science, Physics, ICT
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology for most courses and for some alongside Maths and Physics as well	Maths, Physics, Further Mathematics
Dietetics	Chemistry, Biology	Mathematics
Drama	Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and / or Theatre Studies	English Literature, English Language, Drama and/ or Theatre Studies
Economics	Usually Mathematics	Economics, Computing/Computer Science, History, Business,
Education/ Education Studies	Depends on subject discipline Also see teacher training	

Electrical/ Engineering	Electrical	Mathematics, Usually Physics	Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics, Computer Science
Engineering (General)		Mathematics and Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computer Science
English		English Literature	History, Religious Studies, Foreign Language
Environmental Studies	Science/	Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Geography	Another facilitating subject, particularly Science.
European Studies		A modern foreign language	Another language, English Literature, History
French/ Spanish	German/ Italian/	French/ German/ Italian/ Spanish	Another language, English Literature, History
Geography		Most degrees require Geography	Some Geography (science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry or Physics.
Geology		Usually two from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Geography, Computing / Computer science
History		Most degrees require History	Economics, English Literature, Sociology, Religious Studies
History of Art		None	Art, English Literature, History, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Language
Law		Usually none, however a few universities require English.	History and other facilitating subjects such as English, Religious Studies.
Management Studies		Sometimes Mathematics	Mathematics, Economics, Business (A Level or BTEC L3)
Materials Science (including Biomedical materials science)		Normally two from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Design Technology from some universities	Chemistry, Design Technology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science

Mathematics	Mathematics and some ask for Further Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Physics and Computing/Computer Science
Mechanical Engineering	Mathematics, and usually Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computer Science.
Media Studies (including Communication Studies)	English / Media studies	English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology
Medicine	If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep open the vast majority. If you do Chemistry and one from Mathematics and Physics you will limit your range of choices much more	Further Mathematics, or a contrasting non science subject such as Computer Science.
Music	For most traditional courses you will need music and Grade VII/VIII . Some universities will consider students without A Level Music.	Some universities have a preference for at least one essay based subject.
Nursing and Midwifery	Usually Biology and another Science	Biology, CACHE, Sociology,. Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics
Occupational Therapy	Some courses for Biology	Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another Science
Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics)	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics (some prefer Biology as one of the choices)	Further Mathematics, Computer Science
Orth optics	Biology	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science
Philosophy	None	Mathematics, Religious Studies
Physics	Mathematics, Physics	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science
Physiotherapy	Most courses will consider you with just Biology. However some also require a second science from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.	Physical Education, BTEC Sport (with Biology), Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology.

Planning	Sometimes Geography	Geography, Mathematics, Economics
Politics	Usually none	History, RE, Sociology, Economics, English Literature Business
Psychology	A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics	Biology, Maths, Psychology, Sociology, Computer Science
Religious Studies/ Theology	None	Religious Studies, History, English Literature
Sociology	None	Sociology, Psychology, Computer Science
Speech Therapy	Some universities want a science such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics. Some specify Biology but some degrees will consider candidates with none of these.	Foreign language, English Literature, History and Psychology
Sports Science/ Physical Education	Many courses want to see one from Biology/ Chemistry/ Mathematics / Physics (come courses will treat PE as a science equivalent)	Physical Education, Psychology, BTEC Sport
Surveying	None	For some types of surveying e.g. Building Surveying, Mathematics and Physics could be helpful. For estate management (General Practice Surveying) most A level combinations will be considered.
Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)	At least one from Art, Biology, CACHE, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama, English Literature, French, Geography, a foreign language, History, ICT, Mathematics, Music, Physics, PE, RE.	CACHE meets the entry requirements for early years Primary Teaching and a large number of Primary Education Teacher training degrees. For secondary education, you must have a degree in the discipline you will teach
Veterinary Science	You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Mathematics/ Physics so you have all universities open to you	Further Mathematics