

How to Choose A level and Post 16 Subjects

Here is some information to help you and your child to start considering which A level and Post 16 subjects to choose. Your child will need to think carefully about what subjects they choose post 16 and ensure that they are the right choices for their future career path. It is important that they choose subjects they like and subjects that they are good at and that lead into the career direction they wish to take.

It is also important that your child looks forward and checks A level subject requirements for certain career paths and university and degree apprenticeship choices.

The Russell Group universities can have a specific list of preferred A levels. <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>. Other universities such as Bath and Loughborough also have specific A level subjects required for certain courses so, please do some future checking with your child.

These websites can also help with matching A level choices to your child's future pathway.
<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
<https://targetcareers.co.uk/careers-advice/a-level-choices>
<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/a-levels/choosing-your-a-levels-what-you-need-to-consider>

These choices and combinations also often apply to Degree Apprenticeships too. Some general guidance around A level choices:

Chemistry A Level is essential or very useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology (and Bio related subjects). Chemistry is essential for most Chemical Engineering degrees.

To study Medicine: Biology and Chemistry are essential, with ideally the 3rd A level being Maths, a Science or Psychology but some medical schools will accept any other 3rd A level.

For an Economics degree Russell Group universities often require Maths, Economics or Business A Level can be helpful.

Law degrees often have no essential subjects, though English and History are often chosen and they like subjects which demonstrate logical ability and the ability to write, and they do also like a Modern Foreign Language A level.

Psychology Degree some top universities require a science A level (such as Biology) and some do accept Psychology A level.

Computer Science Degree for Russell Group universities Mathematics A Level is essential, and Computer Science is useful along with other sciences.

Engineering Degrees Mathematics and Physics are generally essential – though there are now many foundation courses giving alternative access for students without these A levels.