

# **SUBJECTS REQUIRED FOR DIFFERENT DEGREE COURSES**



**Linking A Level subjects to your  
degree choice**

You will see here the A level subjects, which are most commonly essential requirements for different degree courses. However, you must always check entry requirements for the university of your choice when making the decision to apply there. This information is derived from the Russell Group advice.

Degree Subject	Essential Advanced Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
Accountancy/Banking Finance/Insurance	Some but not all require Maths	Maths, Business studies and Economics
Actuarial Science/Studies	Maths	Further Maths, Economics, Business studies
Aeronautical Engineering	Maths and Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology
American Studies	Requirements vary but English and/ or History are often asked for	Politics
Anthropology	None	A small number of courses like a Science AS Level such as Biology, Sociology is also very relevant.
Archaeology	None	Geography, History or Science subjects can all be useful
Architecture	Some courses say they want an Arts/Science mix. Some may require Art.	Art, Maths, Design Technology and Physics. National Art and Design may also be useful. Do note that a portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for.

Degree Subject	Essential Advanced Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
Art and Design	Art/Design Technology.	Design Technology, Art. Note that most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have completed a one-year Art Foundation course after Year 13.
Biochemistry	Always Chemistry and some degrees ask for Biology in addition. Some state Chemistry plus one from Maths/Physics, Biology.	Biology, Maths, Further Maths, Physics.
Biology	Biology,	Chemistry, Maths or Physics, some will accept Psychology
Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science)	Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. Some will accept Psychology as a second science related subject.	Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology.
Business studies	None	Maths, Business studies and Economics
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry and Maths and sometimes Physics as well.	Physics, Biology, Further Maths.

Degree Subject	Essential Advanced Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
<b>Chemistry</b>	Chemistry and occasionally Maths, Most courses want this or Chemistry and one other Science (Physics or Biology.	Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Biology.
<b>Childhood Studies</b>	None	CACHE, Psychology, Sociology.
<b>Classical studies</b>	For Classics courses Latin or Ancient Greek are required. For Classical studies/civilisation courses most subjects will be considered.	Modern foreign languages, English Literature, History.
<b>Computing</b>	For some courses Mathematics	Maths, Further Maths, Computing, Physics, Philosophy, ICT
<b>Dentistry</b>	Chemistry and Biology for most courses but some require Maths or Physics as well.	Maths, Physics, Further Maths.
<b>Dietetics</b>	Chemistry, Biology	Maths
<b>Drama</b>	Some courses require English Literature and for some courses English and/or Theatre studies.	English Literature, English Literature and Language. Theatre studies.

Degree Subject	Essential Advanced Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
Economics	Usually Maths	Economics
Electrical/Electrical Engineering	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, ICT, Design Technology.
Engineering (General)	Maths and Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology
English	English Literature (some courses will accept English Language)	History, RE, a foreign language.
Environmental Science/Studies	Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics and Geography.	Another facilitating subject particularly a science.
European Studies	A modern foreign language	Another foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics
French	French	Another foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics
Geography	Most degrees require Geography	Some Geography BSc (science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.
Geology/Earth Sciences	Usually two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.	Geography, Geology

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German	German (a handful of universities offer the opportunity to study German from scratch, without German A level.	Another modern foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics.
History	Most degrees require History.	Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Theology/RE, a modern or classical language.
History of Art	None	Art, English Literature, History, Theology/RE, French, German, Spanish, Italian.
Italian	Italian or another foreign language such as French, German or Spanish.	Another modern language, English Literature, History, Politics.
Law	Usually none, although a few universities require English.	History, other facilitating subjects. Essay report writing useful. History gives good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.
Management Studies	Sometimes Maths.	Maths, Economics, Business studies may be useful.

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<b>Materials Sciences (including Biomedical Materials Sciences)</b>	Normally two from Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Biology (also Design Technology for some universities)	Chemistry, Design and Technology, Further Maths.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Maths and sometimes Further Maths.	Further Maths, Physics.
<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology. Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference for Maths A2 with a strong mechanics component.
<b>Media Studies/Communication studies.</b>	A few courses ask for English or Media studies.	English, Media studies, Sociology, Psychology.
<b>Medicine</b>	Traditional medical schools may ask for Chemistry, Biology and one from Maths or Physics. More choices with Chemistry and one from Maths	Further Maths or a contrasting non-Science subject.
<b>Music</b>	Traditional courses ask for Music and Grades.	Some ask for one essay writing subject.



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Nursing and Midwifery	Usually Biology or another Science.	Biology, CACHE, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry.
Occupational Therapy	Some courses ask for Biology.	Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another Science.
Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics)	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics. Some require Biology as one of the choices.	Further Maths.
Orthoptics	Biology	Chemistry, Maths, Physics.
Pharmacy	Chemistry and one from Biology, Maths and Physics. Some courses ask for Chemistry, Biology and Maths. Doing Chemistry and Biology keeps most courses open.	Maths, Physics.
Philosophy	None	Maths, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and RE/Theology.
Physics	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, Chemistry.
Physiotherapy	Most courses will consider you just with Biology; however some also require a second science from Chemistry, Maths or Physics.	Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology.

Degree Subject	Essential Advanced Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
Politics	None	Politics, History, Philosophy, Law, Sociology.
Psychology	A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, and Physics.	Biology, Maths, Psychology, Sociology.
Religious Studies/Theology	None	RE/Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History.
Sociology	None	Sociology, Psychology, Geography.
Spanish	Spanish (some degree will consider French, German or Italian).	Another modern foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics.
Speech Therapy	Some degrees want a science such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Some specify Biology but some degrees will consider candidates with none of these.	A modern foreign language (for example French, German, Spanish, Italian, English Language or Literature, Psychology).
Sports Science/Physical Education	Many courses want to see one from Biology/Chemistry/ Maths/ Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science).	Physical Education, Psychology.

Degree Subject	Essential Advanced Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
Surveying	None	For some types of Surveying i.e. Building Surveying, Maths 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, Design and Technology, Drama (Theatre studies) English, French, Geography, German, History, ICT, Italian, Maths, Music, Physics, Physical Education, RE, Theology, Spanish. CACHE meets the entry requirements for early years Primary Teaching and a large number of Primary Education Teacher Training Degrees.	Another of the subjects listed.
Veterinary Science	You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Maths/Physics so that you have all universities open to you.	Further Maths.

# REMEMBER

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