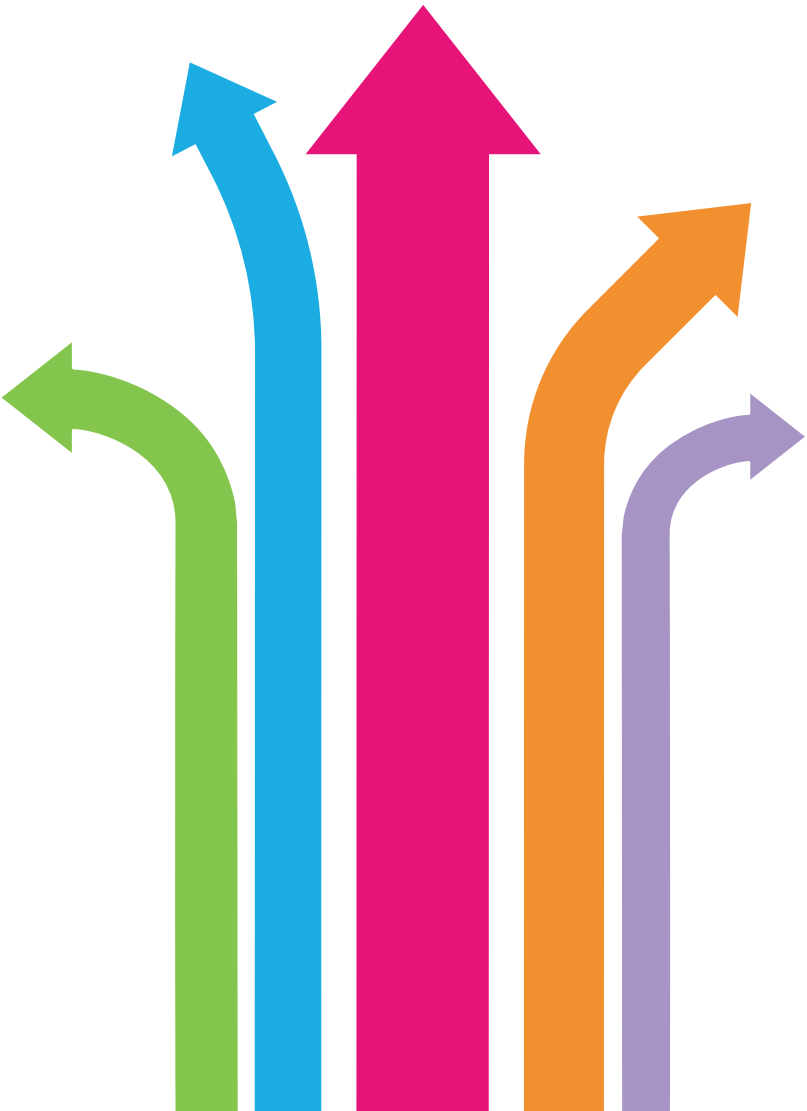
Hereford
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

ACADEMIC
Pathways



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ACADEMIC
Pathways

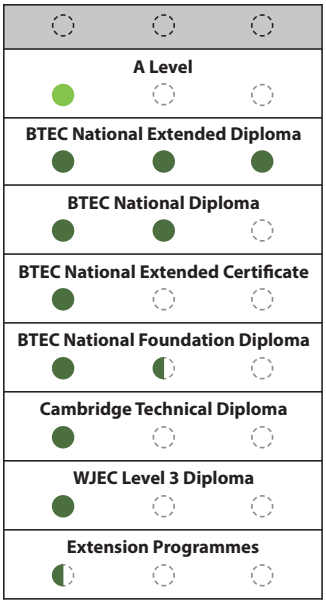
Hereford Sixth Form College has the widest choice of academic courses in the region, with more than 40 A Levels and Level 3 Vocational Courses. Students can create their own individual programme of study (see the Programme of Study page).

This booklet is designed to inform potential students and their parents/carers on academic based pathways, for those wishing to follow an A Level only Programme of Study. This approach is important for students who are academically gifted and/or with a future career aim or university course in mind.

Several careers are outlined within the booklet, along with information on potential Higher Education choices and career prospects. The College has extensive experience of supporting students to obtain university offers for highly competitive universities and courses. A recommended Programme of Study is provided which will enable our students to compete with others at the top academic level.

Our experienced Careers Team are available at our Open Events, for those wishing to discuss their options in greater detail. We also hold talks for potential applicants who may apply for Competitive Universities, including those applying for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. These talks expand on this booklet and give further information on the excellent support students receive as part of our Reach Programme and Academic Masterclasses.

Programme of Study



UCAS TARIFF POINTS
A Level
A* = 56 points
A = 48 points
B = 40 points
C = 32 points
D = 24 points
E = 16 points

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To gain a place on a Level 3 course, you will need at least five GCSEs at grades 4 - 9 or A* - C including English Language. If you have not achieved grade 4 or above in English Language or Mathematics, you will be expected to study these subjects at Hereford Sixth Form College until the minimum requirement grade has been achieved.

CREATING YOUR OWN PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The Level 3 Programme of Study consists of three options. Some students may choose to take on four options. A Levels take up one option; vocational courses can take up one, two or three options, as shown in the guide to the left.

You can combine these different elements to create your own individual programme of study. Options are incredibly flexible, with 99% of combinations possible. It is important that you choose what you enjoy as well as what will qualify you for any future career aim.

The aim of the booklet is to give you an idea of the different course combinations that can lead to certain career paths.

The Level 3 Programme of Study is supplemented with the Tutorial Programme, Impact, the Extended Project Qualification and Certificate in Mathematical Studies.

Architecture

Universities will want a portfolio of work, and will want you to learn about architecture in your spare time. An EPQ focussing on architecture may really help.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BA Architecture** at Cardiff Metropolitan University

» **BSc Architecture** at University College London

» **BA Architecture** at the University of Cambridge

CAREER PROSPECTS

Newly qualified Architect can earn from £31-38k, with a senior partner earning much more.

Careers could include:

» Chartered Architectural Technologist

» Social Sciences Researcher

» Town Planners and Surveyor

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Mathematics

A LEVEL
Art & Design: Fine Art

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Virtual College

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Computer Science

Some highly selective universities prefer Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and you do not need to have done Computer Science. (See the Mathematics page for more information on 'recommended' subjects).

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BSc Computer Science** at the University of Warwick

» **BEng Computing** at Imperial College London

» **BSc Computer Science** at the University of South Wales

CAREER PROSPECTS

A Senior Software Engineer, can earn anywhere between £39,000 and £77,000. A Deep Learning Engineer could earn up to £88,000.

This can lead to careers in:

» Cyber Security

» Machine Learning

» Data Analysis

» Systems Analysis

» Game Designer

» Software Developer

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Fast Track Mathematics

A LEVEL
Computer Science

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Physics

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Virtual College

Engineering

Some highly selective universities such as Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial will want applicants to have studied Further Mathematics. (See the Mathematics page for more informating on 'recommended' subjects).

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

- **Mechanical Engineering** at Birmingham City University
- **Engineering with Aerospace Engineering specialism** at University of Oxford
- **Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering** at the University of Nottingham

CAREER PROSPECTS

The average salary for jobs in Engineering in the UK is £39,000, but can rise to much higher. Biomedical Engineers earn an average of £35,000 and Data Engineer have an average salart of £56,000.

This pathway can lead to careers in:

- Manufacturing
- Investment Advisor
- Quality Control Engineer
- Engineering-specific professions

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Physics

A LEVEL
Fast Track Mathematics

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Virtual College

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Finance

Work experience in any sector may help you with this, as every workplace has a finance person or department!

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BA Accounting and Finance** at the University of South Wales

» **BSc Accounting and Finance** at the Queen Mary University of London

» **BSc Accounting and Finance with Placement Year** at the University of Warwick

CAREER PROSPECTS

The average salary for a Financial Accountant is £48,000 or a Chartered Accountant £84,500.

This pathway can lead to careers such as:

» Financial Controller

» Chief Financial Operator

» Auditor

» Stockbroker

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Mathematics

A LEVEL
Economics

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Virtual College

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Fine Art

If you want to be an artist, Art and Photography go well together, but students must be good with deadlines.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

- **BA Fine Art** at the University of the Arts, London
- **BA Fine Art** at the University of the West of England, Bristol
- **BA Fine Art with Placement Year** at Loughborough University

CAREER PROSPECTS

You can expect to increase your prices with experience. The increase could vary between 10 and 20% with every major achievement, such as a sell-out show or winning an award. Within five to ten years of graduating, you could have your own studio, gallery representation and regular shows.

This pathway can lead to careers as a:

- Curator
- Critic
- Teacher
- Graphic Designer
- Concept Artist
- Fine Art Restoration

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONSIDER TWO FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
History

A LEVEL
English Literature

A LEVEL
Art & Design: Photography

A LEVEL
Art & Design: Fine Art

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

College Annual Art Showcase

WHY NOT ADD...

College Competitions

Humanities

Think about the combination of your A Levels and if these open doors to big, broad courses.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BA Liberal Arts** at the University of Bristol

» **BSc Social Policy, Sociology, and Crime** at the University of Leeds

» **BA History and Politics** at the University of York

CAREER PROSPECTS

The average salary for a Policy Analyst is £36,000. A Communications Manager starting salary is around £25,000, but can rise to £61,000. Teaching salaries start at £26,000 to £32,000.

Careers could include:

» Marketing Executive

» Content Writer

» Data Analyst

» Copywriter

» Senior Account Manager

» Communications Officer

» Political Analyst

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
History

A LEVEL
English Literature

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Law

A LEVEL
Sociology

A LEVEL
Art & Design: Fine Art

A LEVEL
Media Studies

ENRICHMENT

Student Voice

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Journalism

Take part in the Student Voice. Start a blog or get voluntary work, and write about your experience.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

- **BA Journalism and Communications** at Cardiff University
- **MSc Global Media and Communication**s at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- **BA English Language and Literature** at the Univeristy of Oxford
- You can study a broad first degree, such as **BA Sociology** at University of Birmingham, and specialise after graduating

CAREER PROSPECTS

Typical salary for BBC journalist is around £40,000 a year, but some are paid six figures.

Careers in journalism and media could lead to:

- Travel Writing
- Law and the Media
- Data Journalism
- Public Affairs
- Media Production
- Print Production

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
English Literature

A LEVEL
English Language

A LEVEL
Media Studies

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

Student Voice

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Law

Some universities will want three A Levels, and one or two traditional subjects (see page 22)

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **LLB Law** at the University of Law

» **BA Jurisprudence** (Law) at the University of Oxford

» You can take another broad subject for your degree, and then do a one year Law conversion course, such as the **PGDL** at Cardiff University.

CAREER PROSPECTS

A junior barrister may earn £42,000 a year, rising to one of the most highly paid professionals.

You could build a career as a:

» Solicitor

» Lawyer

» Consumer Rights Advisor

» Legal Professional for a company or organisation

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONSIDER AT LEAST ONE FROM BELOW

A LEVEL
History: Medieval/ Early Modern

A LEVEL
History: Modern World

A LEVEL
English Literature

A LEVEL
Law

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

Law Society

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Short Courses
in Sign Language, HeartStart, and Risk Assessment

Linguistics

You could do a broad degree first, and specialise later, if you prefer!

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BA Linguistics** at the University of Manchester

» **BSc Applied Linguistics and English Language** at Swansea University,

» **BA Translation** at London Metropolitan University

CAREER PROSPECTS

The salary for a Public Relations Executive average at £31,000. Teachers abroad working in Japan can earn £2000-4500 a month. Translators have a starting salary of £28,000.

Careers this can lead to are:

» Lexicographer

» Speech and Language Therapist

» Marketing Executive

» Social Researcher

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
French

A LEVEL
Spanish

A LEVEL
German

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
English Literature

A LEVEL
English Language

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

Student Voice

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Virtual College

Mathematics

If a university course 'recommends' Further Mathematics, and your school does not have specialist staff to teach it, your application will be considered. However, Hereford Sixth Form College has a reputation for outstanding Mathematics teaching and a strong Further Mathematics department, so universities will expect you to have studied it.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BSc Mathematics** at Imperial College London

» **BSc Mathematics** at the University of Cambridge

» **BSc Mathematics and Computer Science** at the University of Bristol.

CAREER PROSPECTS

The average salary for a Finance Investment Analyst is £66,000 but can be much higher.

This pathway can lead to careers in:

» Insurance

» Banking

» Accountancy

» Data Analysis

» Engineering

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Fast Track/Further Mathematics

CONSIDER ONE OR TWO FROM BELOW

A LEVEL
Physics

A LEVEL
Computer Science

A LEVEL
Chemistry

A LEVEL
Biology

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

AEA Extension Award

Mathematical Olympiads

WHY NOT ADD...

Virtual College

Medicine

You will need voluntary work for the competitive medical professions. This can be virtual, but getting experience at your local care home, GP surgery, dentist/vet centre or pharmacy will help.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

- **Veterinary Medicine** at the University of Cambridge
- **MB ChB Medicine** at University of Bristol
- **BDS Dentistry** at Queen's University Belfast

CAREER PROSPECTS

Dentists earn a basic salary of between £43,019 and £92,013, but Consultants can earn more. A Doctor with a speciality can have a basic salary of £50,373 to £78,759. Average salary for a Vet is £47,000, but can rise considerably if you set up a practice.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Biology

A LEVEL
Chemistry

Any Traditional A Level

EXTENSION PROGRAMMES
Certificate in Mathematical Studies

ENRICHMENT

Medicine Society

Short Courses
in Sign Language, HeartStart, and Emergency First Aid

WHY NOT ADD...

Volunteering

Natural Sciences

If you like a broad range of sciences and you don't want to specialise straight away, this could be the pathway for you.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BSc Natural Sciences** at University College London

» **BSc Natural Sciences** at the University of Cambridge

» **BSc Biological Sciences** at the University of Cardiff.

CAREER PROSPECTS

Starting salaries as a Biomedical Scientist in the NHS range from £25,000 to £31,000 but Senior Consultant Biomedical Scientists can earn far higher.

This pathway can lead to careers in:

- Research and Development
- Conservation
- Scientific Research
- Medical or Scientific Publishing
- Agro-industry
- Product Development
- Investment Banking
- Management Consultancy

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Mathematics

A LEVEL
Further Mathematics

CONSIDER TWO FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Biology

A LEVEL
Chemistry

A LEVEL
Physics

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Short Courses
in Sign Language, HeartStart, and Emergency First Aid

WHY NOT ADD...

Virtual College

Physics

Some highly selective universities such as Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial will want applicants to have studied Further Mathematics. (See the Mathematics page for more informating on 'recommended' subjects).

Many Physics degrees allow you to specialise as the years go on: look at the second and third year info!

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **MPhys Physics with a Year Abroad** at the University of Edinburgh

» **BSc Astrophysics** at Aberystwyth University

» **BSc Physics** at University of Portsmouth

CAREER PROSPECTS

A Geophysicist can earn £80,000, or a Research Scientist can reach a salary of up to£100,000.

This pathway can lead to careers in

» Clinical Scientist

» Nanotechnologist

» Radiation Protection Practitioner

» Engineer in a range of fields

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Physics

A LEVEL
Fast Track Mathematics

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Geology

A LEVEL
Geography

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Short Courses
in Sign Language, HeartStart, and Emergency First Aid

Additional resources from isaacphysics.org

Physiotherapy

Work experience or voluntary work would be invaluable to support your application.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BSc Physiotherapy** at the University of Birmingham

» **BSc Physiotherapy** at the University of Plymouth

» **BSc Physiotherapy** at the University of Worcester

CAREER PROSPECTS

Salaries for Advanced Practice, Extended Scope or Clinical Lead Physiotherapists are around £45,000, and can rise to £62,000 for Consultant level roles within the NHS. Private clinicians may earn more.

This pathway can lead to careers such as:

» Sports Therapist,

» Exercise Physiologist,

» Osteopath,

» Personal Trainer,

» Health Service Manager

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Biology

A LEVEL
Physical Education

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Psychology

A LEVEL
Chemistry

EXTENSION PROGRAMMES
Certificate in Mathematical Studies

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Short Courses
in Sign Language, HeartStart, and Emergency First Aid

WHY NOT ADD...

Sports Academy

Politics

Look at the degree in detail as courses may begin as broad subjects and then offer you the potential to specialise in your second and third year. Some universities may prefer applicants with one or two Traditional A Levels.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

- **BSc Politics and International Relations** at the Univerisity of Bristol
- **BA History with Politics** at the University of Worcester
- **BA Human Social and Political Science** at University of Cambridge.

CAREER PROSPECTS

Civil Service Fast Stream starting salary £27,000, rising to 45-55k on completion of training.

Graduates may go on to work in fields as varied as:

- Media
- Law
- International Organisations and NGOs
- Politics
- Management
- Research
- Teaching

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Politics

A LEVEL
Mathematics

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Economics

A LEVEL
Law

A LEVEL
Philosophy & Ethics

A LEVEL
History

ENRICHMENT

Debate Society

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Primary Teaching

Philosophy and Ethics could help with RE.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **Primary Education** at the University of the West of England, Bristol

» **Primary Education (Early Years)** at the University of Worcester

» You could first study a broad degree and then complete a PGCE in Education for 1 year, such as **PGCE in Primary Education** at Roehampton, London.

CAREER PROSPECTS

The average wage for a Primary Teacher is £34,000, but can be higher in management.

This pathway can lead to

» Management

» Speech and Language Therapy

» Office Administration

» Private Tutoring

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONSIDER AT LEAST ONE NATIONAL CURRICULUM SUBJECT

A LEVEL
English Literature

A LEVEL
English Language

A LEVEL
Mathematics

A LEVEL
Physics

A LEVEL
Biology

A LEVEL
Chemistry

A LEVEL
Philosophy & Ethics

Any other A Level

Any other A Level

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Short Courses
in Sign Language, HeartStart, and Emergency First Aid

WHY NOT ADD...

Work Experience

Psychology

Some universities like A Level Mathematics or another pure science. Core Mathematics may help your application.

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BSc Psychology** at the University of St Andrews

» **BA Education with Psychology** at the University of Bath

» **BSc Neuroscience and Psychology** at King's College London

CAREER PROSPECTS

The average salary for an Educational Psychologist is £45,000, but can rise to much more. Consultant-level Clinical Psychologists salaries typically range from £65,000 to £90,000.

This pathway could lead to careers as:

» Criminal Psychologist

» Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

» Sports and Exercise Psychologist

» Human Resources Officer

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Psychology

A LEVEL
Biology

Any other A Level

EXTENSION PROGRAMMES
Certificate in Mathematical Studies

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Debate Society

WHY NOT ADD...

Virtual College

Renewable Energy

Other combinations that may help are Geography, Geology or Environmental Science. This is one of the fastest growing sectors for jobs in the world!

NEXT STEPS

This pathway could lead to:

» **BSc Earth Sciences** at University of Oxford

» **BSc Geology** at Durham University

» **BSc Renewable Energy** at University of Exeter

CAREER PROSPECTS

Geologist for global renewable energy mining company: starting salary £52,000. Project Engineer for renewable power: £35,000 or Business development manager from £70,000.

This pathway can lead to careers in:

» Engineering

» Mining

» IT

» Chemical Engineering

» Geology

» Materials Engineering

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A LEVEL
Chemistry

A LEVEL
Mathematics

CONSIDER ONE FROM THE OPTIONS BELOW

A LEVEL
Geography

A LEVEL
Geology

A LEVEL
Environmental Science

ENRICHMENT

EXTENSION PROGRAMME
EPQ

Environmental Group

WHY NOT ADD...

Student Voice

APPLYING TO

Competitive Universities

If you are academic and are aiming for high very GCSE grades, you may want to consider applying to top universities in the future. Higher Tier universities, which include Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, and Russell Group universities, are very selective. These are some of the most competitive courses and universities in the world, so you need to choose subjects that help you compete with others at the top academic level.

HIgher Tier universities may want you to have studied two **traditional A Levels** (once known as facilitating subjects), and another A Level. Take a look at the list of traditional A Levels Hereford Sixth Form College offers to see what would work for you.

Competitive universities have complex application processes. Research what you need to do to apply to the university of your choice, such as admissions tests, or extra work to apply. You may need to apply early to university for these places and courses.

TRADITIONAL A LEVELS

- A LEVEL **Biology**
- A LEVEL **Chemistry**
- A LEVEL **Computer Science***
- A LEVEL **English Literature**
- A LEVEL **French**
- A LEVEL **Geography**
- A LEVEL **German**
- A LEVEL **History**
- A LEVEL **Mathematics**
- A LEVEL **Further Mathematics**
- A LEVEL **Music***
- A LEVEL **Philosophy & Ethics**
- A LEVEL **Physics**
- A LEVEL **Politics**
- A LEVEL **Spanish**

*Only considered a traditional A Level if applying to study the same subject at university.

OTHER A LEVELS

A LEVEL
Art & Design: Fine Art

A LEVEL
Art & Design: Photography

A LEVEL
Business

A LEVEL
Classical Civilisations

A LEVEL
Drama & Theatre

A LEVEL
Economics

A LEVEL
English Language

A LEVEL
Environmental Science

A LEVEL
Geology

A LEVEL
Law

A LEVEL
Media Studies

A LEVEL
Psychology

A LEVEL
Sociology

A LEVEL
Statistics

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