

Choosing the right A'level subjects at Hereford Sixth Form College.

Advice for specific careers / higher education courses.

Note: Academic Quality and Standards Committees are currently considering the implications of curriculum reform. Further information on admissions criteria will be published by universities in due course. The information below may change for HSFC enrolment later in 2016.

1. Dentistry

Chemistry and Biology are essential. The third subject may be from the Arts or Sciences. A minimum of 7 GCSE A grades including an A in Maths, the Sciences and English Language.

It will be beneficial for students to complete an EPQ.

Please refer any potential dentist to a Careers Adviser at enrolment.

2. English

Please note that some English courses at university require an A'level in English Literature not Language (taking both Literature and Language together at A'level is OK).

At UCL: For UK-based students, a grade C or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. However, UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment if a student does not meet this criteria.

3. Law

The idea that universities do not like Law A'level is outdated now, except in one or two cases (e.g. the LSE). However, able students should take two traditional, "facilitating" subjects. These include Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Geography, Government and Politics, History, Languages, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies) and Physics. Because of the LNAT (Law National Admissions Test), those considering taking Law at university are strongly advised to take up AS Critical Thinking as an extra AS.

4. Medicine

Minimum: Chemistry, plus one from Biology; Physics; Mathematics or Further Mathematics, plus one further rigorous subject (not Critical Thinking or General Studies). A combination of three sciences will be regarded as equally acceptable at A2-level (except Maths and Further Maths) at some institutions; others show some preference to applicants who offer a contrasting subject at A-level. In this context a contrasting subject is one outside the traditional science subjects of Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Examples of contrasting subjects: English Literature, History, Geography, Art, Music, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

Note:

Most universities do require Biology AND Chemistry.

Most applicants for Medicine at Cambridge have at least three science/mathematics A Levels and some Colleges require this.

With the demise of the 4th AS, all medical applicants will need to take up an EPQ.

Successful medical applicants will have 6 or more A/A* grades at GCSE.

Please refer any potential medic to a Careers Adviser at enrolment.

5. Midwifery

One of the A levels must be science related. Appropriate sciences include: Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Psychology. Some **require** Biology. Some institutions will accept Sociology and Health and Social Care.

GCSE requirements: 5-6 GCSEs at grade C or above which must include English, Mathematics and a Science subject at grade C (sometimes B) or above

6. Nursing

GCSE requirements: 5-6 GCSEs at grade C or above which must include English, Mathematics and a Science subject (some require these at grade B or above). **A level preferred subjects:** Biology, Psychology, Health and Social Care, Sociology and two others. Some accept PE. Note: some places **require** Biology.

7. Optometry

Two sciences at A level, including Biology with either Maths or Physics. Chemistry may be acceptable as an alternative. General Studies not accepted as part of the offer.

8. Physiotherapy

A level Biology. Some require two sciences. PE is a good choice to accompany Biology.

BTEC Extended Diploma accepted in Sport & Exercise Science (some institutions will also require an additional A level in Biology).

9. Pharmacy

Chemistry and at least one other science subject (Biology, Maths or Physics). General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted as part of the offer.

10. Primary Teaching

At least 6 GCSEs at Grades A-C, including Maths, English Language and Science (Worcester). Some universities specify B grades in English, Maths and Science. Some students may wish to take resits here to keep all university options open. B grades in English and Maths are essential to study at universities in Wales.

A'levels should include at least one National Curriculum subject. It will be beneficial if qualifications reflect the likely choice of curriculum focus, for example, A Level Science. National Curriculum

subjects include: English, Science (some universities are flexible with Geology and Environmental Science), Maths, History, Geography, PE, Art, Music and Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies).

Modern Languages are acceptable for secondary teaching only. For post-graduate primary teaching 50% of the degree must be in a National Curriculum subject.

11. Sport and Exercise Science

Note that at Loughborough A'levels must include **at least** one of the following preferred subjects: Biology, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology, History, Physical Education, English Literature or English language.

BTEC Extended Diploma students must also have an A'level from this list of preferred subjects.

12. Veterinary Medicine

Chemistry and two of Biology, Physics, Mathematics. Biology AND Chemistry are usually required.

Most applicants for Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge have at least three science/mathematics A Levels and some Colleges require this. There is some evidence to suggest that other institutions prefer this too.

Excellent GCSE grades required (at least 6 A*/A grades).

Please refer any potential vet to a Careers Adviser at enrolment.

Hilary White

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