

CHOOSING THE RIGHT A LEVEL SUBJECTS AT HEREFORD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE ADVICE FOR SPECIFIC CAREERS/HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES (information correct as at 02/2022)

We strongly advise that students check entry requirements with the universities

ALL high achievers (GCSE average of 6.8 or above) including Medics, Vets, Dentists and Oxbridge should be seen by a member of the Careers Team at enrolment.

ARCHITECTURE

Entry requirements vary so these must be checked carefully but Maths, Physics and/or Art sometimes preferred.

COMPUTER SCIENCE/ENGINEERING

Engineering and Computer Science at highly academic (Russell Group) universities may need Maths/Further Maths

DENTISTRY

Chemistry and Biology are essential. While the third subject choice need not necessarily be a science subject it should be a traditional rigorous A Level subject. **GCSE** English, Maths, and Science at grade A*, A or B (9,8,7 or 6) will also be required. Please check specific entry requirement details with specific course providers.

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).

LAW

The idea that universities do not like Law A level is outdated now however, able students should take two traditional academic subjects. These include Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Geography, Government and Politics, History, Languages, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Computer Science, Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies) and Physics. Some universities require students to sit the LNAT (Law National Admissions Test). It will be beneficial for students to complete an EPQ.

MEDICINE

Chemistry and Biology are essential*. While the third subject choice need not necessarily be a science subject for all Medicine courses** it should nevertheless be a traditional rigorous A level subject. (Please check specific entry requirement details with specific course providers). **GCSE** English, Maths and Science at grade A*, A or B (9,8 or 7) will also be required along with a very strong overall GCSE results profile.

**Please note while there are few medical schools that state Biology or Chemistry as an A level requirement for the study of Medicine, the vast majority of applicants for such courses will nevertheless be studying both Biology and Chemistry and as a result we stand by our 'essential' requirement for both Chemistry and Biology for all Medicine courses.*

***Most applicants who intend to study Medicine at Oxford or Cambridge will study at least 3 science/mathematics A levels and some 'Oxbridge' colleges require this.*

MIDWIFERY

It is strongly recommended that one of the A levels be science related - some require Biology. Maths and Social Sciences such as Psychology, Sociology and Health and Social Care are acceptable at some universities.

GCSE requirements: 5 – 6 GCSEs at grade C (4/5) or above which must include English, Mathematics and a science subject at grade C (4/5) (sometimes B /5 or 6) or above.

NURSING

Preferred subjects: Biology, Psychology, Health and Social Care and Sociology. Some accept PE. Some places require Biology.

GCSE requirements: 5-6 GCSEs at grade C (4/5) or above which must include English, Mathematics and a science subject (some require these at grade B/5/6 or above).

OPTOMETRY

A minimum of two sciences at A level are essential usually from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics. Check individual websites.

PARAMEDIC SCIENCE

An A level/BTEC Science is strongly preferred. Some require Biology. Some institutions will accept Maths, PE and Psychology as a science. Some institutions will accept a Social Science such as Sociology and Health & Social Care.

GCSE requirements: 5 – 6 GCSEs at grade C (4/5) or above which must include English, Mathematics and a science subject at grade C (4/5) (sometimes B /5 or 6) or above

PHYSIOTHERAPY

A level Biology. A few require 2 sciences. PE is an acceptable choice to accompany Biology (and some institutions may accept PE instead of Biology). BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science may be accepted (some institutions will also require an additional A level in Biology). **GCSE** English, Mathematics and Science are required, often at grade 5 and above.

PHARMACY

Chemistry and at least one other science subject (Biology, Mathematics or Physics).

PRIMARY TEACHING

At least 6 **GCSEs** at Grades A* – C, (9 – 4) including Mathematics, English Language and Science. Some universities specify B (5/6) grades in English, Mathematics and Science. Some students may wish to take resits here to keep all university options open. B (5/6) grades in English and Mathematics are essential to study and teach at universities in Wales.

A levels should preferably include at least 1 National Curriculum subject. Qualifications should reflect the choice of curriculum focus. National Curriculum subjects include: English, Science (some universities are flexible with Geology and Environmental Science), Mathematics, History, Geography, PE, Art, Music, Computing and Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies). For the post-graduate primary teaching route, candidates prospects are improved if their degree includes at least 50% of a National Curriculum subject (and a subject specialist is likely to need their degree in the subject to be taught).

SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE (Loughborough)

Note that Loughborough are asking for A*AA-AAA including two of the following preferred subjects: Biology, Human Biology, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, PE / Sports Science.

The BTEC National Extended Diploma will not be acceptable as a stand-alone qualification but will be accepted at D*D*D* overall in conjunction with one or more preferred A Levels outlined above at grade A. BTEC in Sport or Sport Science related subjects will **not** be accepted alongside A Level Physical Education.

GCSE: Majority 7/6 (A/B) grades at GCSE including minimum grade 6/B in Maths, English Language and a Science

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Chemistry and Biology are essential and while the third subject choice is likely to be a science/maths A level subject* this need not necessarily be the case. The third subject choice if not science/maths should nevertheless be a traditional rigorous A level subject. (Please check specific entry requirement details with specific course providers). **GCSE** English, Maths and Science at grade A*, A or B (9,8 or 7) will also be required along with a very strong overall GCSE results profile.

**Most applicants who intend to study Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge will study at least 3 science/mathematics A levels and some colleges require this. There is also some evidence that other institutions prefer this too.*