



KS4 Career Booklet Alec Reed Academy

PREPARING YOUR FUTURE

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SUBJECTS REQUIRED FOR DIFFERENT DEGREE COURSES

Linking A-Level subjects to your Degree Choice



You will see below the advanced level subjects, which are most commonly essential requirements for different degree courses. If you know you want to apply for a certain degree, you must take these essential subjects at advanced level. To maximise your chances to choose one or more of the other useful subjects for the degree in question. However, you must always check directly with the universities of your choice when making this decision. The information is derived from the Russell Group advice.

Subject	Essential Advance Subject	Useful Advanced Subjects
Accountancy/Banking Finance/Insurance	Usually none, although one or two require Maths	Maths, Business and Economics
Actuarial Science/Studies	Maths	Further Maths, Economics, Business
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 Science AS level such as Biology, Sociology is also relevant.
Archaeology	None	Geography, History or Science subjects can all be useful
Architecture	Some courses may ask for 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
Art and Design	Art/Design Technology	Design Technology, Art. None that most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have completed a one-year Art Foundation course after Year 13
Biochemistry	Always chemistry and sometimes Biology in addition. Some state Chemistry plus either Maths/Physics, or Biology. Typically like more than one science	Biology, Maths, Further Maths, Physics
Biology	Biology, Chemistry	Maths or Physics
Biomedical Sciences, including Medical Sciences	Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. Chemistry is essential for many courses	
Business Studies	None	Maths, Business Studies and Economics
Economics	Usually Maths	Economics
Education (see teacher training)		

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 a subject from: Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics
Geology/Earth Sciences	Usually two subjects from: Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Geography, Geology
German	German (a handful of universities offer the opportunity to study German from scratch, without a 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, a modern or classical language.
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 it is not essential. Law is not a good A-Level to take
Management Studies	Sometimes Maths	Maths, Economics, Business Studies may be useful
Materials Sciences (including Biomedical Materials Sciences)	Normally two from Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Biology	Chemistry, Design and Technology, Further Maths
Mathematics	Maths and sometimes Further Maths	Further Maths, Physics
Mechanical Engineering	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology. Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference

		for Maths A2 with a strong mechanics component
Media Studies/Communication studies	A few courses ask for English or Media Studies	English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology
Medicine	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
Music	Traditional courses ask for Music and Grades	Some may ask for one essay writing subject
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, Physics

	Maths. Doing Chemistry and Biology keeps more courses open	
Philosophy	None	Maths, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and RE/Theology
Physics	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, Chemistry
Physiotherapy	Most courses will consider you with just Biology; however, some also require a second science from Chemistry, Physics or Maths	Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology
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	A modern foreign language (for example French, German, Spanish, Italian, English Language or

	degrees will consider candidates Sports Science/with none of these/	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
Surveying	None	For some types of Surveying i.e. Building Surveying, Maths and Physics could be helpful. For Estate Management – 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	Another one of the subjects listed

	number of Primary Education Teacher Training Degrees.	
Veterinary Science	You should do Chemistry and Biology, and one from Maths/Physics so that you have all universities open to you.	Further Maths

Further information on subjects and degrees:

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/russel-group-latest-news/137-2011/4746-new-guidance-on-post16-study-choices/>

For information on post 16 courses:

<http://www.ucaqsprogress.com/>

For information on open days at universities:

www.opendays.com

For information on careers:

<http://www.careercompanion.co.uk>

For information on comparing HE courses:

www.unistats.com