

## A-levels

- academic subjects- focused on ideas, theory and knowledge.
- mainly taught in the school classroom environment of Sixth Forms (including School Sixth Form, Sixth Form College, Sixth Form within College of FE, University Technical College).
- assessed by exam.
- can be taken as a package of 3 or 4 OR alongside vocational Level 3 qualifications.
- lead to University or employment including Apprenticeship/Higher and Degree Apprenticeship.

### How to get A-level decisions right;

- choose subjects which interest you. If you are interested you are likely to do better.
- it helps if you are good at the subject, or it suits your strengths (in the case of a new subject).
- some subjects go well together and specific combinations are needed for certain degrees and subsequent careers.
- it is ok to mix it up a little. Taking a contrasting subject shows off other talents.
- there are many degrees and careers which do not require any specific subjects or combinations.
- be aware of workload and the demands of each subject and in combination with others.
- there are many misconceptions about what is essential for degrees and careers. Always check out the specific entry requirements for interested courses and Universities.
- a few Universities have lists of preferred and non-preferred subjects.
- competitive courses and Universities might prefer traditional subjects (or facilitating subjects).
- project based work and independent study skills are increasingly valued by Universities. As a result EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is becoming a popular option alongside 3 A-levels.
- the following articles/guides have been carefully selected to support A-level decision-making;

[www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college)

[www.plotr.co.uk/advice/articles/](http://www.plotr.co.uk/advice/articles/) (articles include "A-level choices – 5 tips to help with choosing A-level subjects" and "A-level choices - 5 questions to ask when choosing subjects")

[icould.com/article/choosing-a-level-subjects-five-points-to-consider](http://icould.com/article/choosing-a-level-subjects-five-points-to-consider)

[www.ucas.com/ucas/16-18-choices/search-and-apply/qualifications-you-can-take/levels](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/16-18-choices/search-and-apply/qualifications-you-can-take/levels)

[university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices](http://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices)

- the following University course search websites are relatively easy to use in order to find out about entry requirements for degree subjects;



[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com), [www.which.co.uk/university](http://www.which.co.uk/university), [www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com), [www.ukcoursefinder.com](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com)