

TELL ME ABOUT A Level Links to University Degrees

Information for
young people
at the end of
Years 11, 12 and 13

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For more information

Personal Advisers from Connexions Coventry & Warwickshire will give you individual help and advice. We have a network of offices throughout the city and the county. There are Connexions rooms in most schools and further education colleges. If you are not sure who to get in touch with, ring the office that's nearest to where you live:

Atherstone	01827 712482
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www.iyss.org.uk

Connexions Direct

This is a national helpline where you can reach a Personal Adviser even when local offices are closed. Ring 080 800 13 2 19 or log on to:

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Introduction

This leaflet is intended to help you understand the link between the university degree you might study and the A levels you will need to get onto that degree.

It will be useful both at the time when you plan which A levels to apply to study as well as when you are actually studying A levels and are looking to choose a degree. It's important to note that some degrees require very specific A level subjects (in particular a lot of science-based degrees, languages etc.) whilst others have less specific requirements. You also need to be aware of assumptions - for example, lots of people say 'you need History A level to do a Law degree' or 'you must have A level Maths to study Accountancy' - when the reality is that these subjects may be very useful but are not required by all universities. Each university sets its own requirements and may prefer a different set of A levels, so check individual websites and prospectuses.

To help you make links between A levels and university degrees we've listed:

- **Essential A levels - that you must have studied and passed to be accepted onto that degree course.**
- **Useful/preferred A levels - that most universities will prefer you to have studied and which will help when you are applying to study a competitive degree subject.**
- **Other comments - covering important issues that you need to consider.**

This leaflet focuses solely on A levels so for other qualifications, for example, BTEC National Diplomas or International Baccalaureate, you will need to check the acceptability of these qualifications with staff in your school/college, with your Personal Adviser and on universities' websites. We would recommend that you also check the requirements for degree courses on the UCAS website www.ucas.com

Note:

- **Some universities do not accept General Studies and Critical Thinking.**
- **Foundation Year courses (often called Year Zero) are offered in place of essential A levels for Engineering and Science.**

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For information on all A level courses throughout Coventry and Warwickshire go to the 14 - 19 Area Prospectus - www.route14-19.co.uk

A level links to university degrees

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A levels	Other comments
Accountancy	None.	None.	A level Maths is required for some joint Accountancy/Economics/Finance courses.
Actuarial Science	Maths.		
Advertising	None.	Art, Design, Business, Graphics	Usually a combination with Business or Marketing.

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A levels	Other comments
Aero Engineering	Maths and Physics.	Further Maths, Design Technology, ICT	Check individual courses for details of progression to 'Chartered' or 'Incorporated' Engineer status.
American Studies	English or History for some.	Politics, Sociology, Modern Languages.	
Anthropology	None.	Biology, Sociology.	
Archaeology.	None.	Science, History.	There is a trend for Archaeology to become more scientific.
Architecture	Varies, often none.	Art or Design and/or Physics/Maths.	Work experience useful.
Art and Design	Art.	Design Technology.	Be prepared to take an Art and Design Foundation course after A level studies. A portfolio is essential.
Banking	Maths for some courses.	Maths, Business, Economics.	
Biochemistry	Chemistry plus another science or Maths	Another science or Maths.	
Biology	Biology plus Chemistry (very often).	Another Science or Maths.	Courses are very diverse and Chemistry may not be required but without it choices could be limited.
Building	Maths and/or Physics for some.		Covers a range of disciplines, some are technical, others are more about business/project management.
Business Studies	None generally.	Maths, Business Studies	Courses vary enormously, some have a strong focus on Finance where Maths at AS and A level may be required.
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry, Maths and sometimes Physics.		Programmes like 'A Year in Industry' may be useful www.yini.org.uk

Degree Subject	Essential A Levels	Useful/Preferred A Levels	Comment
Chemistry	Chemistry plus another Science or Maths.	Physics, Biology and Maths.	
Civil Engineering	Maths and Physics.	Further Maths, Design Technology.	Check details of 'Chartered' or 'Incorporated' status.
Classical Studies	Latin or Greek Classical for some courses.	Classical Studies, Modern Languages, History, English Literature, Religious Education.	
Computing/ICT	Maths for some courses. Especially Computer Science/Engineering.	Maths, Physics, ICT, Computing.	Maths and Physics may be required for some technical courses.
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology. Some also require Maths or Physics.		Universities ask for A grades in most subjects. Expect an interview. Work experience essential.
Dietetics	Chemistry and Biology.		Work experience preferable.
Drama	A few require English Literature or English Language and Theatre Studies.	English Literature, English Language, Drama, Performing Arts, Dance and Music.	Auditions will be required. Check information about Drama Schools on www.drama.ac.uk Drama can also be studied at universities see www.ucas.com
Early Years/ Childhood Studies	None.	Sociology, Psychology, Health and Social Care.	
Electrical/ Electronic Engineering	Maths and Physics.	Further Maths, ICT, Computing, Design Technology, Electronics, Engineering.	Programmes like 'A Year in Industry' might be useful www.yini.org.uk Check details for 'Chartered' or 'Incorporated' status.
Engineering	Maths and Physics.	Further Maths, ICT, Computing, Design Technology, Electronics, Engineering.	Programmes like 'A Year in Industry' might be useful www.yini.org.uk Check details for Chartered status.

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A levels	Other comments
English	English Literature or English Literature and Language	History, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Language, Philosophy	
Environmental Health	Any two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. Some courses prefer Biology and Chemistry.		
Environmental Science/Studies	Many courses ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Geography and Physics		
European Studies	A Modern Foreign Language	History, English Literature, Politics	
Fashion and Clothing	Art and Design or Fashion/Textiles.	Design Technology.	Be prepared to take a Foundation course in Art and Design. A portfolio is necessary.
French	French.	Another Modern Foreign Language.	A year abroad will be part of the course.
Geography	Geography.	Some prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Geology.	
Geology / Earth Sciences	Usually two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology	Geology, Geography	
German	German.	Another Modern Foreign Language.	A year abroad will be part of the course.
History	History.	Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Language.	
History of Art	None.	Art, History, English Literature, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Language.	

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A levels	Other comments
Hotel and Catering	None.	Food Technology, Business Studies	
Italian	Italian or another Modern Foreign Language e.g. French, Spanish, German.	Another Foreign Language.	Knowledge of Italian History, Culture and Literature is useful. A year abroad will be part of the course.
Journalism	None but at least one essay / report writing subject, and mainly academic subjects.	History, English Language.	Need to prove interest in, and aptitude for, writing.
Law	None, but at least one essay writing subject, and mainly academic subjects.	History, English, Politics or a Language.	Some universities require the National Assessment Test for Law (LNAT) www.lnat.ac.uk Work experience is recommended.
Management	None.	Maths, Economics, Business.	Team work / leadership skills useful.
Marketing	None.	Economics, Business, Psychology.	
Materials Science	Usually two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.		
Mathematics	Maths. Sometimes Further Maths is required too.	Physics.	
Mechanical Engineering	Maths, Physics.	Further Maths, Design Technology, ICT.	
Media Studies	A few courses ask for English Language.	English, Media Studies, Psychology, Sociology.	Some courses are very practical, others theoretical
Medicine	Chemistry, Biology.	Physics, Maths. However a third A2 in another subject is acceptable at many medical schools.	Universities expect to see GCSEs at A*/A in most subjects. Medical schools also ask for Biomedical Admissions test (BMAT) or the UK Clinical Aptitude test (UKCAT) www.bmat.org.uk www.ukcat.ac.uk Expect an interview. Relevant work experience required.

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A levels	Other comments
Music	For traditional courses, Music and Grade 7/8 Associated Board.		Performance courses want Associated Board 8 in a principal instrument.
Music Technology	Some require Maths or Physics or ICT.	Music, Electronics.	
Nursing/Midwifery	Some courses ask for Biology or another Science.	Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care.	Degree and Diploma courses available (A levels not essential but recommended for Diplomas). Work experience necessary. Expect an interview.
Occupational Therapy	Some courses ask for Biology.	Some courses will consider Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another Science.	
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	Chemistry and Biology.	Maths and Physics.	GCSE Maths B minimum. Work experience useful.
Photography	Art or Photography.		Be prepared to undertake a Foundation course in Art and Design after A level studies. Portfolio necessary.
Physics	Maths and Physics.	Further Maths, Electronics, Chemistry.	
Physiotherapy	Biology.	Chemistry, Physics, Maths, PE, Psychology.	Work experience in a related area is required.
Politics	None.	Politics, History, English, Philosophy, Law, Economics, Foreign Languages	
Psychology	A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics but most have no specific requirements.	Biology, Maths, Psychology, Sociology.	Students who want to become professional psychologists must make sure the British Psychological Society has accredited their course.
Public Relations	None.	English, History, Politics, Psychology, Business, Economics.	

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A Levels	Other comments
Radiography	One from Physics, Chemistry, Maths or Biology.		Work experience is helpful.
Religious Studies or Philosophy/Ethics	None.	Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History	
Retail Management	None.	Business Studies, Economics, Psychology, Drama	
Social Work	None	Sociology, Psychology, Law, English.	Candidates have to be police checked. Work experience essential in a related area. Information on social work from www.gsc.org.uk
Sociology and or Criminology	None.	Sociology, Psychology, English.	
Spanish	Spanish	French, German, Italian, Latin	Some courses will consider French, German or Italian instead of Spanish. Includes a year abroad.
Speech and Language Therapy	A science such as Biology.	A Modern Foreign Language, English Language, Psychology, Music.	
Sports Science	One or more science subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.	Physical Education, Psychology.	
Sports Studies	None.		
Surveying	None.	For Building Surveying, useful subjects include Maths and Physics. For Estate Management most A levels will be considered. Geography useful.	
Teacher Training	Normally one of the National Curriculum subjects.	Preferably a second National Curriculum subject.	GCSE grade A* - C required in English language, Science and Maths. Visit www.tda.gov.uk
Television, Film and Radio	None.	English Literature, History, Media, Drama.	

Degree subject	Essential A levels	Useful/preferred A Levels	Other comments
Travel & Tourism	None.	Geography, Economics, Business Studies.	
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and Biology plus either Maths or Physics.		Universities want GCSEs at A*/A. Some vet schools ask for Biomedical Admissions test (BMAT). See www.bmat.org.uk Expect an interview. Work experience essential.

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