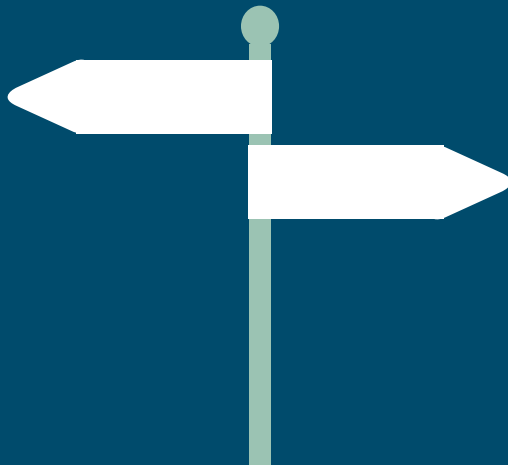


Sibford
School
SIXTH FORM



**GUIDE TO
MAKING
SENSIBLE
A Level
CHOICES**





A Level requirements for degrees

Some popular degrees are often open to the student with a wide range of A Levels: accountancy, anthropology, archaeology, business studies, history of art, law, management studies, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology, religious studies, sociology, surveying and teacher training.

The information below is a general guideline.

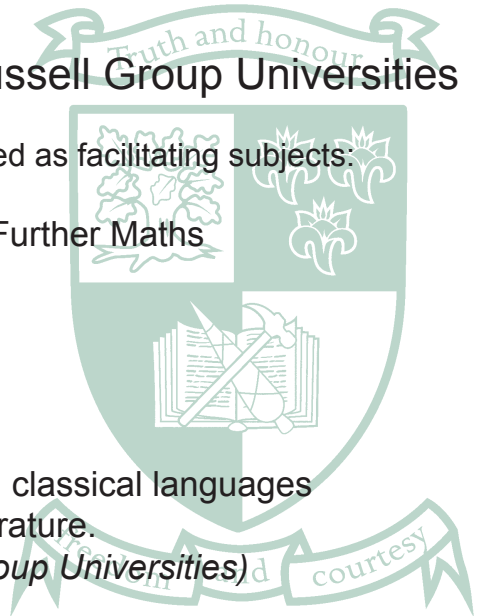
You should always check university prospectuses to be completely sure.

Facilitating subjects – Russell Group Universities

Subjects that can be viewed as facilitating subjects:

- Maths and Further Maths
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- History
- Geography
- Modern and classical languages
- English Literature.

(Russell Group Universities)





Accountancy (also banking/finance/insurance)

Essential A Levels: None

Useful A Levels: possibly Maths, Business Studies and Economics.

Note: High grades are normally more important than subject for a student who wants to gain an accountancy training contract.

Actuarial Science/Studies

Essential A Levels: Maths.

Useful A Levels: Further Maths, Business Studies, Economics.

Aeronautical engineering

Essential A Levels: Maths, Chemistry (for chemical engineering) and usually Physics.

Useful A levels: Further Maths and Design Technology.

American Studies

Essential A Levels: Requirements vary but English and/or History often asked for.

Useful A Levels: Politics.

Anthropology

Essential A Levels: None.

Useful A Levels: A small number of courses like a science AS level such as Biology and sometimes sociology.

Archaeology

Essential A Levels: None.

Useful A Levels: Archaeology, History, Chemistry.

Architecture

Essential A Levels: For a small number of degree courses: maths and/or physics and art (*some state an arts/science mix*).

Useful A Levels: Art, DT, Maths, Physics.

Note: A portfolio of drawings and ideas can be asked for.

Dentistry

Essential A Levels: Chemistry and Biology would be acceptable for most courses, but a few still like Chemistry, Biology and Maths or Physics.

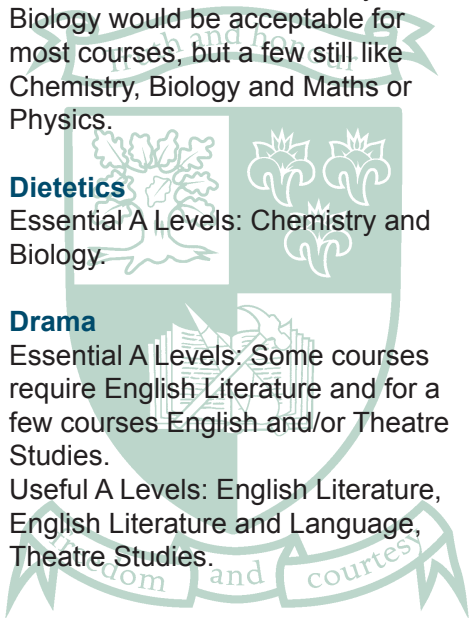
Dietetics

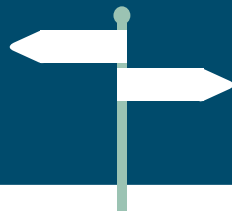
Essential A Levels: Chemistry and Biology.

Drama

Essential A Levels: Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and/or Theatre Studies.

Useful A Levels: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies.





Economics

Essential A Levels: Some courses require Maths.

Useful A Levels: Maths, Economics.

Education

See Teacher Training.

Electrical/Electronic Engineering

Essential A Levels: Maths and Physics.

Useful A Levels: DT, Further Maths, ICT.

Engineering (General)

Essential A Levels: Maths and Physics.

Useful A Levels: Further Maths.

English

Essential A Levels: English Literature or English Literature and Language.

Useful A Levels: History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

Note: Some very selective courses can sometimes have an issue with English Literature and Language A Level.

Environmental Science/Studies

Essential A Levels: Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics and Geography.

European Studies

Essential A Levels: A modern foreign language.

Useful A Levels: A second modern foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics.

French

Essential A Levels: French.

Useful A Levels: Another modern foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics.

Geography

Essential A Levels: Most degrees require Geography.

Useful A Levels: Some BSc degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.

Geology/Earth Sciences

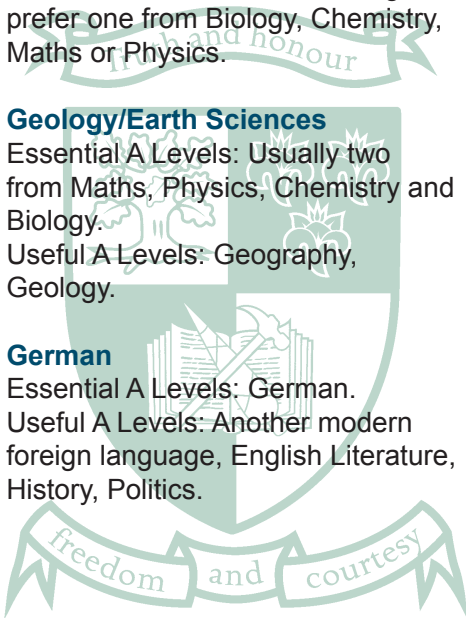
Essential A Levels: Usually two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Useful A Levels: Geography, Geology.

German

Essential A Levels: German.

Useful A Levels: Another modern foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics.





History

Essential A Levels: Most degrees require History.

Useful A Levels: Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Theology/Religious Studies.

History of Art

Essential A Levels: None.

Useful A Levels: Art, English Literature, History, Theology/Religious Studies, French, German, Spanish, Italian.

Italian

Essential A Levels: Italian or another language such as French, German or Spanish.

Useful A Levels: Another modern foreign language, English Literature, History, Politics.

Law

Essential A Levels: None.

Useful A Levels: Critical Thinking (this will help with the Law National Admissions Test).

Note: There really are no essential A Levels for Law. Maybe one choice should involve essay or report writing. History gives the students good relevant skills for Law. Really do try to encourage students to choose subjects that offer them the best chance of getting high grades.

Management Studies

Essential A Levels: None but very occasionally Maths (LSE want Maths).

Useful A Levels: Possibly Maths, Economics, Business Studies.

Materials Science (including biomedical materials science)

Essential A Levels: Normally two from Chemistry, Maths, Physics and Biology.

Mathematics

Essential A Levels: Maths and sometimes Further Maths.

Useful A Levels: Physics.

Mechanical Engineering

Essential A Levels: Maths and Physics.

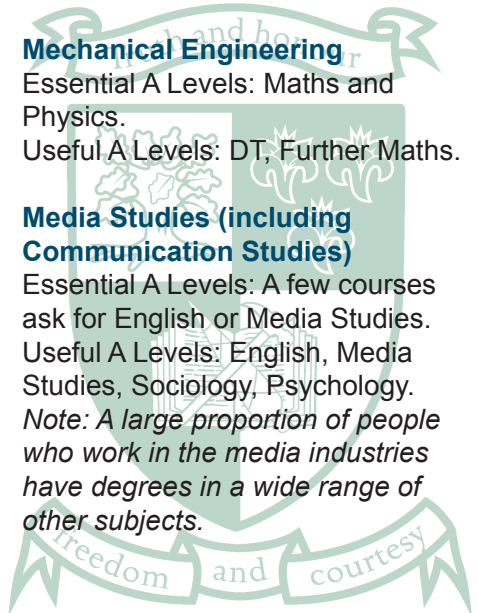
Useful A Levels: DT, Further Maths.

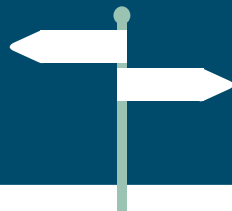
Media Studies (including Communication Studies)

Essential A Levels: A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.

Useful A Levels: English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology.

Note: A large proportion of people who work in the media industries have degrees in a wide range of other subjects.





Medicine

Essential A Levels: If students choose Chemistry, Biology and one from Maths or Physics they will keep all the medical schools open to them. If they do Chemistry and Biology they will keep open the vast majority. If they choose Chemistry and one from Biology, Maths and Physics they will limit their range of choices much more.

Useful A Levels: Critical Thinking (will help with Section 3 of the Bio-Medical Admissions Test).

Students must think about what they have to do and what other subjects they can get the highest grades in.

Music

Essential A Levels: For most traditional courses, Music and Grade VII/VIII.

Nursing and Midwifery

Essential A Levels: Some courses ask for Biology or another science.
Useful A Levels: Biology, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry.

Occupational Therapy

Essential A Levels: Some courses ask for Biology, some will also consider Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another science.

Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics)

Essential A Levels: Two from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics (some courses prefer Biology as one of the choices).

Pharmacy

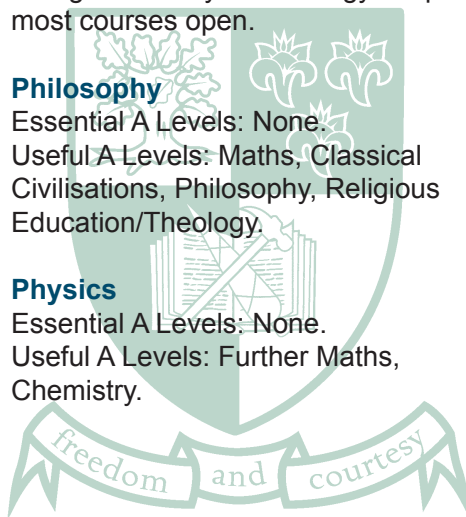
Essential A Levels: Chemistry and two from Biology, Maths and Physics keep the vast majority of courses open to students. Some courses prefer Chemistry, Biology and Maths. Doing Chemistry and Biology keeps most courses open.

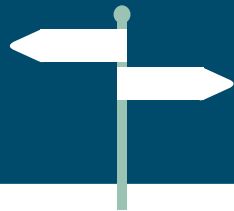
Philosophy

Essential A Levels: None.
Useful A Levels: Maths, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy, Religious Education/Theology.

Physics

Essential A Levels: None.
Useful A Levels: Further Maths, Chemistry.





Physiotherapy

Essential A Levels: Most courses will consider a student with just Biology, however some ask for a second science from Chemistry, Maths or Physics.

Politics

Essential A Levels: None.
Useful A Levels: Politics, History, Philosophy, Law.

Psychology

Essential A Levels: A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics while some require Biology. Universities do not require any previous study of psychology however.

Useful A Levels: Biology, Maths, Psychology, Sociology.

Religious Studies/Theology

Essential A Levels: None.
Useful A Levels: Religious Studies/Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History.

Sociology

Essential A Levels: None.
Useful A Levels: Sociology, Psychology, Geography and Media Studies.

Spanish

Essential A Levels: None.
Useful A Levels: Another modern foreign language, English, History, Politics

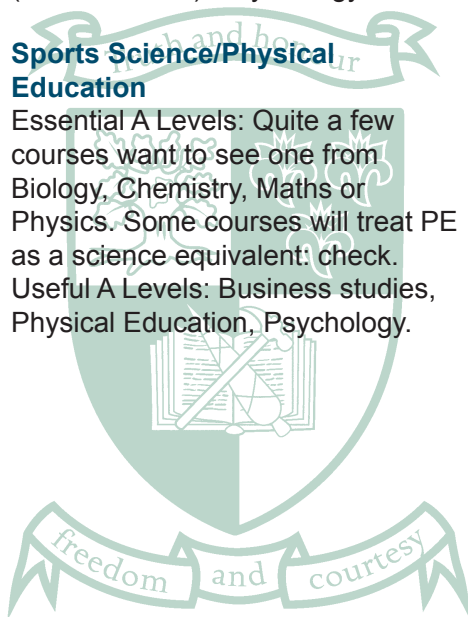
Speech Therapy

Essential A Levels: Some degrees want a science such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
Some specify Biology, but some degrees will consider candidates with none of these.

Useful A Levels: A modern foreign language (i.e. French, German, Spanish, Italian), English Language (and Literature), Psychology.

Sports Science/Physical Education

Essential A Levels: Quite a few courses want to see one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics. Some courses will treat PE as a science equivalent: check.
Useful A Levels: Business studies, Physical Education, Psychology.





Surveying

Essential A Levels: None.

Useful A Levels: For some types of surveying, such as building surveying, Maths and Physics could be helpful.

For estate management (general practice surveying) most A Level combinations will be considered.

Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)

Essential A Levels: At least one from Art, **Biology**, **Chemistry**, Design and Technology, Drama (Theatre Studies), **English**, French, **Geography**, German, **History**, ICT, Italian, **Maths**, **Music**, **Physics**, **Physical Education**, **Religious Studies (Theology)**, Spanish.

Note: Do not forget to check if some primary teaching courses have GCSE requirements.

(Subjects best for primary teaching are in BOLD).

Veterinary Science

Essential A Levels: Students should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Maths/Physics so that they can apply to all seven courses.

