



# A Level options – 2023

The Latymer School  
Sixth Form



# Overview

- This presentation is aimed at making you think about the link between your A Level choices and the degree that you want to study.
- Some A Levels will be “required” by universities to secure a place and some will be “preferred” or described as “useful” by universities. In an increasingly competitive environment these should be seriously considered too.
- The first 10 slides contain some general advice and then these are followed by 30 slides showing the requirements for the different degrees (in alphabetical order).



# Uncertain about your degree choice? Maximise your choices:

If you have **not yet decided on a course** that you would like to study at university, we recommend that to maximise your potential course choices you select at least *three* traditional academic subjects among your four choices.



# Non traditional subjects at Latymer

- Art
- Media Studies
- Music
- Design

However, you may want to do more than one of these or even all three if it is what you enjoy, what you are good at and it helps your career choice.

These subjects can facilitate applications e.g. Art and Design for Architecture and Engineering.



# Subjects not offered at Latymer

- Psychology, Law, Computer Science, PE, Drama, Classics and Spanish are all subjects not offered at Latymer but many students have secured places at Russell Group universities (including Cambridge and Oxford) for those degrees by studying the subjects we do offer. Please see the specific slides.
- We support students by offering super-curricular activities that make them strong candidates.



# Warning!

- There is a lot of variety in course requirements / preferences between universities and between colleges within universities. You will find some courses that do not require the combinations that follow.
- This advice is based on **maximising your choices**.
- What follows is a general guideline based on the courses that Latymer students have applied for. It is only a sample of available courses. If you know that you want to apply for a specific course at a specific university then you do some research. It is your decision!



# Institutions: Russell Group

The **Russell Group** is formed of 24 British research **universities** – Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial, KCL, Leeds, Liverpool, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, QML, Queens Belfast, Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, Warwick and York.

But there are many other great universities that are not in that group so research them as well.

# A Level Programme: 4 not 3



- We are delighted that we can offer you 4 subjects in Year 12, dropping to 3 in Year 13. Students doing Further Maths will continue with all subjects because they will have completed the full Maths A Level at the end of Year 12. Some students may wish to continue with all 4 subjects.
- This means that your qualifications will be 3 A levels and 1 AS. Students doing Further Maths will have 4 full A Levels. This will impress the top universities and future potential employees.
- It means that you have flexibility when selecting the best subjects to continue with in Year 13, but if we only offered 3 subjects you are stuck with them.
- You are expected to complete your studies of 4 subjects up until the end of Year 12.



# A-Level programme – Year 12



Yr 12: 4 subjects

Yr 12: Further  
Maths

Yr 12 Spring Term:  
Indicate subject to drop  
and enter for AS exam

June Yr 12 Exams:  
Sit 1 AS exam plus 3  
internal exams

June Yr 12 Exams:  
Sit 1 A level Maths  
exam + 2 internal

# A-Level programme – Year 13



Yr 13: 3 subjects

Yr 12/13:  
Further  
Maths

Yr 13 June Exams:  
Sit 3 full A Levels

Yr 13 June Exams:  
Sit 3 full A Levels

Qualifications:  
3 A levels plus 1 AS

Qualifications:  
4 A levels



# Archaeology & Anthropology

- No particular subjects at A level are required for Archaeology & Anthropology.
- It may be helpful if your subjects relate to the area of the course in which you are hoping to specialise, e.g. Biology for Biological Anthropology, History or Sociology for Social Anthropology, Geography for Archaeology etc.
- However, most subjects are relevant and a mix of Science and Arts subjects is positively welcomed.



# Architecture

- There is no prescribed combination of A Level subjects required for the Architecture course.
- Applicants with backgrounds in either the Humanities or Sciences have been successful, although a combination of Arts and Science subjects is considered the best preparation.
- Many have studied Art or Design. Cambridge prefer Art. Mathematics at A Level is also encouraged. Physics is very useful and required by some.
- A strong interest and commitment to the discipline is essential and applicants are expected to show a portfolio of recent work at interview.



# Biochemistry

- Chemistry always required.
- Some degrees will ask for Biology as well.
- Others will ask for Chemistry, plus one of Maths, Physics or Biology.
- Doing Chemistry, Biology and Maths or Physics will keep all Biochemistry courses open to you.



# Biology

- Biology and Chemistry essential.
- Maths or Physics useful.



# Chemistry

- Chemistry and usually Maths or Physics.
- Some courses ask for Chemistry, Maths and Physics while some prefer Chemistry, Maths and Biology.



# Classics

- No particular subject combinations are more desirable than others.
- Subjects that offer a grounding in the skills required for the course, such as Languages and essay-based subjects (e.g. History and English) are useful.





# Computer Courses

- Maths and possibly Further Maths.
- Check universities' websites for further details.
- Physics.



# Dentistry

- Chemistry and Biology needed.
- Some Dentistry schools prefer those two plus Maths or Physics.



# Drama and Theatre Studies

- English is recommended.



# Economics

- It is now essential that applicants have A Level Mathematics for many courses.
- But you can still study Economics at degree level without it.
- Further Mathematics is considered very useful by some competitive universities e.g. Cambridge and LSE.
- Economics is seen as useful preparation.



# Engineering

- Maths and Physics A Levels for admission to read Engineering.
- Chemistry is also required for admission to read Chemical Engineering via the Engineering route.
- There is an alternative route to Chemical Engineering via Natural Sciences.
- Further Maths is also preferred by some universities.



# English

- It is essential that applicants should have English Literature as one of their A Levels.
- Modern/classical languages and History are also useful subjects though not essential.
- Many successful applicants have studied Mathematics and Science subjects.



# Geography

- There is no single combination of subjects that is especially good for students wishing to study Geography. It is highly desirable that you be taking Geography A Level.
- If you are particularly interested in contemporary human geography or historical geography, then Economics, English literature and History, are helpful.
- If you are interested in physical geography, then Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics are useful supporting subjects.
- Wherever your interests lie, knowledge of a foreign language will help you understand developments in this international discipline, and to gain a greater insight into regional geographies.



# History

- No single combination of subjects especially good for students wishing to study History.
- It is highly desirable that you be taking History A Level.
- Successful applicants take all sorts of subjects from Mathematics and Sciences, to Arts and Social Sciences. All of these teach skills that can be useful to the undergraduate historian.
- It may be useful to have a second essay-based subject alongside History.
- At many universities there is a preference for applicants to have, in addition to History, at least one further essay-based A Level in a traditional Arts or Social science subject. Performance-based subjects and some of the newer A Levels that contain less individual essay work for assessment would be acceptable as a third A Level.





# History of Art

- No particular subjects at A Level are required for the History of Art course but subjects should be primarily academic.
- Subjects like History, English, Modern Languages, History of Art, Religious Studies and Classics are ideal, and Mathematics and experimental Sciences are acceptable if accompanied by one or two Arts A Levels.



# Land Economy

- No particular subjects at A Level are required for the Land Economy course but a combination of Arts and Science subjects is recommended.
- Economics, Mathematics and Geography are particularly useful.



# Law

- Many A Level subjects provide a good grounding for the study of Law and they have an open mind about the subjects that are a sound preparation.
- Good applicants tend to have taken subjects at A Level that develop a careful, analytical approach to reading and which require them to present information in a way which is well structured and thoughtfully argued, e.g. English/History/Economics.
- Applicants with backgrounds in Mathematics and Science subjects perform as well as those whose background is in Humanities subjects. Many universities are pleased to see applicants with a mixed background in these subjects.
- Maths is very useful.



# Maths

- Maths and consider Further Maths.
- Further Mathematics is considered essential by some very competitive universities.
- Some universities prefer Physics as well.



# Media

- For courses with a high level of practical content like Film + TV Production, *at least one* of the following creative / analytical subjects would be the norm: Media Studies, Art, Drama, English Language / Literature - and many applicants study two of these at A Level.
- The most competitive courses have high expectations of proven academic *and* practical ability.
- For theory based courses like Film Studies, Communications / Cultural Studies or Journalism, A Levels in Media Studies, English, Sociology, Politics and the Humanities are ideal.



# Medicine

- Biology and Chemistry plus another science (including maths) to maximise your choice of med schools.
- But Maths is not essential.
- A “broadener” – e.g. a foreign language, Economics, History, English.
- There is a wide variety so research the different med schools.



# Modern & Medieval Languages

- Applicants to all Colleges for the Modern & Medieval Languages course should be studying that language at A Level.
- Beyond that there are no required subjects.
- Whilst it is always helpful to be able to demonstrate linguistic aptitude at the same, or lower, level, many combinations of subjects provide a strong basis for Linguists.
- It is also helpful to be able to demonstrate critical engagement with the literature and culture of the societies where the languages to be studied are spoken. This may emerge from curricular studies in History, Media, Literature or society of the country; or it may come from extra-curricular study.



# Music

- After Music no particular subjects are more desirable than others.
- Modern Languages and History are useful but so are virtually all other subjects, including Mathematics and Sciences, in different ways.
- Applicants should be acquainted with at least some of the standard repertory and have experience of writing about music.
- You are likely to have a good musical ear, some facility at the keyboard, and some proficiency in harmony and counterpoint.





# Natural Sciences

- To make full use of the flexibility of the NST you will find it helpful to have a strong knowledge base across a wide range of Science and Mathematics subjects.
- Most students have three science and/or mathematics subjects at A Level.
- Two A Levels out of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics are the minimum provided that you are happy with a restricted choice of courses in the first year.
- An additional Science or Mathematics subject at either AS or A Level is helpful.
- You can't study a combination of three biological subjects without GCE A Level Chemistry.
- A Level Mathematics is essential for the physical sciences and Computer Science.



# Philosophy

- No particular subjects at A Level are required for the Philosophy course.
- However, a combination of Arts and Science subjects is considered useful.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a capacity for clear-headed logical reasoning and abstract thought. Religious Education (Philosophy and Ethics) is recommended.



# Physics

- Physics.
- Maths and some universities prefer Further Maths.
- Check the universities' websites for further information.



# Psychology

- No particular subjects at A Level are required for the Psychology course.
- However, a combination of Arts and Science subjects is considered useful. Maths in particular.



# PPE: Philosophy Politics Economics

- You may apply for PPE having done any combination of subjects at school.
- It is not necessary to have studied Politics, Philosophy or Economics. History and Mathematics are useful backgrounds, but are not essential.
- However you will find it easier to show a genuine interest and develop understanding if you do study some of Politics, Philosophy, Economics.



# Sociology

- History, Economics, Politics, Geography and Media.  
These are all considered to be useful



# Sport and PE

- One of Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.



# Theology & Religious Studies

- No particular subjects at A Level are required for Theology & Religious Studies.
- Subjects such as Religious Studies, History, English and modern languages can be helpful, but so can any subjects that encourage clear, logical thinking and careful analysis of evidence.
- Students with a completely science background study Theology and Religious Studies and do very well.
- At least one essay-based subject is useful.





# Veterinary Medicine

- A Levels in **three** of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics.