



Some important guidance re best A Level subject choices for a few specific degree options at **higher tier universities**

Double Mathematics: Students seeking places at higher tier Unis for the following subjects **are strongly advised to consider Double Mathematics**

(Unis like Warwick, Cambridge, Imperial - almost certainly ruling yourself out without Maths x 2):

COMPUTER SCIENCE
ENGINEERING
PHYSICS
MATHEMATICS
and may be ECONOMICS

Taking AS Further Maths in the second year at BHASVIC certainly strengthens university applications for students only studying single Mathematics – although is still not as ‘strong’ as Double Mathematics.

Single Mathematics: Students wishing to study the following subjects at higher tier Unis **should seriously consider Single A Level Mathematics** (for some of these courses at some Unis = actually essential):

ARCHITECTURE
SCIENCE
(such as Biology, Chemistry, Bio-Medical Sciences)
PSYCHOLOGY
PHILOSOPHY

Medicine/Dentistry: Medicine and Dentistry are highly competitive degree courses. We strongly recommend that you study both Chemistry and Biology A-levels, to keep your options open. There are a handful of options for those that take only Chemistry or Biology alongside a second science or Maths, but your choice will be severely restricted. For most universities, a wide variety of courses are accepted as your third choice of A-level (except General Studies, Critical Thinking and similar) but not BTECS. Some Cambridge colleges ask for the third A-level to also be science or Maths, a few medical schools specify an “academic” third choice and many would like to see three distinct subjects, so will not include both Maths and Further Maths in their offer, for example.

Veterinary Science: Studying Chemistry and Biology A-levels is strongly recommended, as this will enable you to apply to any of the nine UK Veterinary Schools. For your third choice, most A-levels (except General Studies, Critical Thinking and similar) are accepted but not BTECS. Without both these sciences, your options will be very limited. Harper and Keele accepts Biology or Chemistry A-level, alongside a second science or Maths. Cambridge and Bristol both accept Chemistry A-level with one of Biology, Physics or Maths. Cambridge requirements vary by college but Maths/Science is preferred for the third A-level.

‘Traditional’ A level subjects: Leading higher tier Unis have no objection to ONE less traditional A Level subject such as Media, Film, Art, Theatre Studies - but taking TWO such subjects almost certain rules out a UCAS application to a general higher tier Uni.

This advice is probably sound for a Humanities degree; for a Science/Mathematics-based degree – it is probably necessary to have 3 traditional A Levels.

Please note that taking 4 A Levels does not necessarily make for a stronger uni application! The Oxbridge expectation is for 3 A Levels.

A slate of 3 A Levels completed very well is far preferable to a weaker set of 4 A Levels.

Extended Project Qualification: There will be an opportunity to study an **Extended Project Qualification** (equivalent to 60% of an A level) in either A1 or A2 which will add strength to 3 A levels. Many higher tier unis value the EPQ as a robust dissertation.

The main exception to the 3 A Level 'rule' may be a combination of Sciences including Double Maths as two of 4 A Levels (NB not, say, Biology + Chemistry + Physics + Maths).