



Cotswold Edge Sixth Form



Top tips on choosing your Level 3 courses – A Levels & Vocational

There are a wide range of subjects to choose from. If you think you want to study certain subjects at university, or if you have a career area in mind, it's important to check if they have any particular entry requirements. You may not yet know what you want to do after Sixth Form, so here's a quick guide to making choices.

The most important criteria for choosing your subjects are:

1. What you are likely to enjoy and be good at?
2. Do you have a favoured learning style? – A Levels and Vocational subjects are taught and tested in different ways. Which works best for you?
3. Are there any particular subjects and grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job or further study in mind you may need to choose certain subjects in order to meet entry requirements; and check if they specify A Levels or Vocational or a combination.
4. How open you want to keep your future study and career choices?

Ability and enjoyment

Think about the subjects you are good at and like. If you enjoy what you're studying you are likely to be more motivated. If you have ability in your chosen subjects you can increase your chances of success.

Subject combinations

Some subjects cover common ground – such as economics and business, or media studies and film studies. You need to check they're not too similar as some colleges and universities may not accept the combination for entry to higher level courses.

Some subject combinations are complimentary and fit well together – such as doing physics as well as mathematics or another science. This can help you in your studies and enable you to meet entry requirements for higher level courses in future.

Some degree courses specify the subjects (and grades) that you need. The table below gives examples of degree courses that require specific A Levels – some will accept Vocational alternatives, but you need to check!

Degree level course	A level subjects often required
Biology	Biology and another science or maths
Chemistry	Chemistry and sometimes maths and/or another science
Dentistry	Chemistry and one or two other sciences
Engineering	Maths and physics (or maths and chemistry for chemical engineering)
Maths	Maths
Medicine	Chemistry and usually one or two other sciences. Some require biology
Modern languages	Usually the language to be studied – but this may vary for less common languages
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and one or two other sciences

Researching your career routes is really important - useful websites to help you with this are:

www.careerpilot.org.uk

www.bestcourse4me.com

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses

www.unistats.com