

Accountancy

Most courses require Mathematics at A level.

Agriculture/Food Science

Most courses require one or two science subjects (including Mathematics). Some universities require Chemistry.

Anthropology

There are usually no required subjects for this course, but a combination of science and arts subjects may be useful. Biology and Geography are particularly recommended for biological anthropological courses; History or Classics may also be useful.

Architecture

A combination of sciences and arts is preferred, with most top universities requiring Mathematics and/or Physics and/or Art. Many schools of architecture will want to see evidence of design ability, usually in an art portfolio. Some universities set drawing tests.

Art and Design/Fine Art

Requirements vary between institutions but most will require Art and Design A level, with some courses specifying Design and Technology or Physics A levels too.

Biology/Biochemistry/Zoology

Chemistry A level is required, with some courses also requiring Biology. At least two science A levels (including Mathematics) is required or preferred.

Business and Management Studies

A few specialist courses require Mathematics A level and many require an A grade at GCSE.

Chemistry

In addition to Chemistry itself, a second science A level (including Mathematics) is usually required. For the most competitive courses, Further Mathematics is also recommended.

Classics

Either Greek or Latin at A level is required for classical language courses. Although some courses will accept Classical Civilisation plus a modern language, this is unlikely to be the case for girls from our school where Greek and Latin are offered. Latin and Greek can be combined with almost any other subject, although they are more commonly studied with English, History, etc. You can read Classical Civilisation/Ancient History at university too (generally there is a language element but it is minimal and you do not need to have studied Latin or Greek before) and, although there are no specific A level requirements for this, Classical Civilisation, History or English Literature are sometimes recommended. Studying a language at advanced level may help to show your linguistic abilities.

Computer Science

A level Mathematics is usually required, with Computer Science A level a good additional qualification.

Drama

You do not need Drama A level to study this subject at university, particularly if you are interested in combining it with another subject. English is advisable. Most important is a history of participating in drama activities, both in and outside school.

Economics

Economics is not always required but obviously could be helpful. Although Mathematics is usually described as desirable rather than required, we recommend those thinking of studying Economics at degree level to take Mathematics for A level, as at the most competitive universities it is often a requirement. At some universities, for example Cambridge and LSE, Further Mathematics too is a requirement and should certainly be considered if you do not want to limit your options.

Engineering

Mathematics and Physics A level are likely to be required, with Further Mathematics required for the most competitive institutions. Chemical Engineering requires Chemistry, Mathematics and, sometimes, Biology and/or Further Mathematics.

English

English at A level is usually required. If you are going on to study English Literature or Language, it might be helpful to have a modern foreign language, though not required.

Environmental Sciences

For science-based courses, Chemistry and/or Biology are expected, and Mathematics is helpful and, occasionally, required. There are also 'issue-based' courses, for which subjects such as Economics, Geography and Politics would be appropriate.

Geography

This can be combined with a range of sciences or humanities, such as Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Economics or History. Geography A level is usually required for those who wish to study the subject at degree level. Some universities may look for candidates who have at least one science subject or Mathematics at A level in addition to Geography.

Health Sciences (Physiotherapy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, etc.)

If you envisage studying a nursing degree or a course in paramedical subjects such as Physiotherapy, Biology A level will be of great importance, and Chemistry is advisable to keep all options your open. For these careers, you will be expected to have significant work experience in the UK.

History

History A level is required for most courses, though there are some exceptions to this rule. However, competition is extremely strong in this subject so it would be unwise not to offer it. Other essay writing subjects, such as English or a modern foreign language, combine well with History, as do Religious Studies, Economics, Politics, and History of Art. Increasingly, people apply for History with a range of other subjects, including Mathematics and science A levels; this is especially true for courses such as HSPS at Cambridge or Liberal Arts/Combined Arts courses.

History of Art and Architecture

History of Art A level is usually not required, though of course many candidates will have it. In addition to History of Art A level, you could consider complementary subjects such as Art and Design, English, History, Religious Studies, Classical Civilisation and modern and classical languages.

Human Sciences

A science A level is often required, usually Biology, though it would be wise also to offer Chemistry and/or Physics and/or Mathematics.

Law

Unless you want to study International Law, where an A level in a modern language is needed, there are no specific requirements. Law degree courses are very competitive: your aim should be to obtain three high A level grades. Most combinations of subjects are acceptable, but as the ability to write clearly is an essential skill, it would be useful to be able to offer one essay-writing subject such as English, Religious Studies or History. Some universities look favourably upon Mathematics as this demonstrates an ability to think logically and solve problems effectively.

Linguistics

English A level may be required, as may a modern or classical language. A science may also be useful for the more experimental courses.

Mathematics

Mathematics can be combined with many other subjects. However, if you wish to read Mathematics or a related subject at university, Further Mathematics and/or Physics are highly recommended. Further Mathematics is required