



Clapton Girls'
Academy

Sixth Form



What to study,
where to go and
how to get there

**YOUR
FUTURE
STARTS
HERE**

6 THINGS

1 CERTAIN UNI COURSES WILL LOOK FOR SPECIFIC A-LEVELS

You won't be able to apply to some uni courses without having taken some specific A-levels (and scored the right grades in them too, of course).

Listed below are a few examples of these to give you an idea of what to expect (even if some are no-brainers)...

Pharmacy must have: chemistry, plus at least one from biology, maths and physics

English must have: usually English literature.

Earth sciences must have: at least two from maths, physics, chemistry and biology

Economics sometimes need: maths, very rarely do you need economics.

2 TAKING CERTAIN A-LEVELS WILL OPEN UP MORE UNIVERSITY COURSE OPTIONS

Think you probably want to go to uni but don't know what you want to study yet? You won't be the only one! You can keep your options wide open when choosing your A-levels by selecting a smart mix of the most commonly asked-for subjects in university entry requirements, known as 'facilitating' subjects. Take your pick from:

biology, chemistry, English, geography, history, maths, modern languages, physics

The more of these you choose, the more courses at university will be open to you.

3 A-LEVELS ARE A LOT TOUGHER THAN GCSEs

The reason you take a particular subject is usually one (or more) of these three scenarios: you need it to pursue a particular career; it's a subject you enjoy and are good at; or it's a subject you've not studied before but you think will suit you.

Either way, be prepared for a big jump in the level of difficulty when you transition from GCSE to AS-level (or any other Advanced level qualification for that matter).

You'll also see differences in the way you're taught and in what is expected of you.

YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MAKING YOUR A-LEVEL CHOICES

4 SOME COURSES AND UNIS HAVE LISTS OF SUBJECTS THEY DON'T ACCEPT

Particular courses will view certain A-levels as less effective preparation for university studies than others. Some universities – such as the University of Sheffield – actually list which A-level subjects they prefer. Others, like the London School of Economics (LSE), have ‘non-preferred’ subject lists.

If your subject choices don't match up, you shouldn't necessarily discount the course, or be put off from taking a creative or vocational A-level subject you're really interested in. Taking a subject such as economics, government and politics, philosophy, psychology and sociology in conjunction with at least one (ideally two) of the ‘facilitating’ subjects listed shouldn't be an issue if you get the grades.

5 KNOW MYTH FROM REALITY

Don't take everything you hear at face value – the reality might be quite different.

Say you've heard that you have no chance of getting on to an ultra-competitive law course at the University of Durham because it doesn't accept psychology A-level. Is that really the case? A university may view you differently from another candidate based on other factors such as extra-curricular interests, personal statement or your portfolio. It's best not to rely on pre-conceived assumptions or what you hear through someone else from their experience.

First, take a look at what the university itself has to say and what A-levels current students on the course took. In this case, you'll find that 14% of students studying law at Durham arrived with A-level psychology!

6 MANY UNIS AND COURSES WILL CONSIDER YOU WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE

Question: Accountancy, anthropology, archaeology, banking, business studies, classical civilisations, hospitality, information science, law, management, marketing, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology, public relations, religious studies/theology, retail management, social work, sociology, surveying, television, travel and tourism...

What do these subjects have in common?

Answer: They do not normally have essential subject requirements! So don't get too bogged down in essential A-levels you have to take.

BTECS VS A-LEVELS?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

TEACHING STYLE:

If you study A-levels, you'll be taught in a similar manner to how you've been used to throughout your secondary education. BTECs are slightly different in that theory is combined with regular practical work so you can directly apply what you learn.

For example, those studying a BTEC in business will still learn the key concepts as they would at A-level; however the assessments to test this knowledge may be different (see below).

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE:

When applying to university, you'll need to demonstrate your passion for the field you wish to study. The benefit of BTECs is that you automatically gain the practical experience to show this, as part of your course.

ASSESSMENTS:

Whereas A-levels are assessed mainly through exams at the end of Year 13, BTECs are assessed via regular coursework and projects throughout the course. If you know you don't excel in exam conditions, BTECs can relieve this pressure, spreading out the work that dictates your final grade.

SUBJECTS YOU CAN STUDY:

Although we've pointed out above that you may be surprised by the range of subjects on offer at BTEC level, there is still a strong understanding that BTECs lend themselves more to subjects with a practical nature. Therefore subjects which are firmly rooted in theory and concepts will only be available at A-level such as English or maths.

CAN YOU GET INTO UNIVERSITY IF YOU'RE STUDYING BTECS?

More than 100,000 BTEC students apply to UK universities each year. BTEC level 3 - this is the equivalent of studying A-levels and provides access to a degree programme in the first year.

HOW ARE BTECS PERCEIVED?

In previous years, BTECs have attracted jibes for being an easier option, because of their vocational, less academic nature. However, this criticism is quickly disappearing as more students take this path to university and beyond.

As a result, universities have adapted their entry requirements and will widely communicate BTEC requirements alongside those for A-levels. According to UCAS, the number of successful university applicants applying with at least one BTEC has increased a whole 12% to 26% from 2008 to 2015 (that's less than two-thirds now applying with the traditional three A-levels). In fact, 30% of successful Oxford applicants apply with qualifications other than A-levels.

THINGS TO CONSIDER IF YOU'RE TAKING BTECS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

BTEC students have the experience of real-life practical tasks and work placements. This will set you aside from students studying A-levels, who don't usually have this element as a part of their course.

For a subject such as health and social care, the work placements in areas such as childcare or healthcare settings can make for strong and well-rounded applications to courses including nursing, social work or health and social care degrees.

DO ALL UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT BTECS?

Ninety-five per cent of universities and colleges in the UK accept BTEC students, including competitive universities from the Russell Group. In 2016, over a quarter of students accepted into higher education held at least one BTEC.

Nearly all universities accept BTECs in relevant subject areas, similar to how they would with equivalent A-level qualifications.

BTEC students can often be better prepared in terms of the independent studying that's required at degree level, due to the portfolio-based nature of BTEC courses. The time management and self-organisation you'll pick up on a BTEC course can also give you an added edge.

BTEC students achieving good grades are just as sought after as students with good A-level results – here's how to widen your options even further:

YOUR SUBJECT OPTIONS ARE FLEXIBLE

It's also important to note that, as with A-levels, there are many transferable opportunities in terms of subjects – what you study at BTEC won't necessarily dictate the exact subject you study at university. For example, if you have studied for a BTEC in one subject area, you can apply for a different subject at university.

For example, studying an applied science BTEC can lead on to degree programmes in chemistry, biochemistry, food science or zoology, to name just a few examples.

RUSSELL GROUP

WHAT IS IT?

The Russell Group is a catch-all term for a group of unis with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement.

WHAT THEY SAY...

“ Our students work with world-class experts, use first-rate libraries and facilities, are part of a highly motivated and talented peer group and often engage with cutting-edge research.

Graduate recruiters rank ten Russell Group universities in the top 30 universities worldwide, and Russell Group graduates typically receive a 10% salary ‘top-up’ over others. Why? Because the combination of teaching and research excellence creates the ideal learning environment which produces ‘work-ready’ graduates.

Providing a world-class student experience is a top priority for us and our universities have higher than average student satisfaction and the lower than average drop-out rates.

”

Wendy Piatt
Director General Of The Russell Group

WHAT WE SAY...

“ By banding together, Russell Group universities are able to put more funding, contracts, grants and awards their way. Why does that matter to you? Because success breeds success.

With more money to invest in research and other projects, the knock-on effect is that these unis are better equipped to attract the top staff and students, which then further cements their academic prestige.

”

The Russell Group isn't the only university group out there – University Alliance is a group of ‘business engaged’ universities, while Million+ is a public policy think tank made up of universities. Some universities choose not to be part of any group – and this shouldn't be viewed negatively.

WHO ARE THEY?

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
DURHAM UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON
KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
UNIVERSITY OF YORK

IS THE RUSSELL GROUP THE BEST?

When it comes to getting a job, factors such as your grades, experience and interview will be the real clinchers. But a top class honours degree from a Russell Group university can give job applications a certain sparkle – and may open up some extra doors into competitive career sectors.

Russell Group universities offer a number of useful schemes that can make you 'work ready' when you come to apply for a job. For example, the University of Leeds offers the 'Leeds for Life scheme' for all students. On this scheme you're given a personal tutor who will be your career mentor, helping you identify and develop the skills you'll need in work. The scheme offers awards to students who show enthusiasm to enhance their skills and knowledge, and there are also opportunities for funding to learn a language abroad.

WILL IT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE DAY-TO-DAY?

As an undergraduate, being at a Russell Group uni won't have too much direct impact on your studies in itself. You may get the opportunity to be involved in academic research at this level when you do a final year research project, or if you are selected to work on a vacation project. Where you will benefit is by having tutors working at the cutting edge of research and passing on their expertise.

If you want to go on to take a Masters or PhD, studying at a Russell Group university can work in your favour, particularly if your application demonstrates knowledge of some of the latest departmental research.

DON'T GET TOO HUNG UP ON NAMES AND RANKINGS:

YES, THEY CARRY A CERTAIN WEIGHT, BUT THE MAIN THING IS CHOOSING A COURSE AND UNIVERSITY THAT BEST SUITS YOU.

OXBRIDGE

WHAT IS IT?

With 26 British prime ministers, 58 Nobel prize winners, over 150 Olympic medals and a "notable alumni" list that reads like a historical hall of fame, the institutions of Oxford and Cambridge – collectively known as Oxbridge – are seen, by many, as the ultimate universities. These are the 2 oldest universities in the UK dating back over 800 years.

HOW DO I GET IN?

SO HOT RIGHT NOW

As the only secular all girls' sixth form in Hackney, CGA qualifies for a number of unique opportunities which give our students the edge over other applicants for the best courses and universities.

ONE-TO-ONE TUTORING

We match high-flying uni graduates with students for weekly academic tutorials. These sessions help our students achieve better grades and progress to top universities.

ENRICHMENT

A dedicated member of The Access Project staff is based within the academy to deliver university support and activities, which equip students with the skills and information they need to win places at the very top universities.

IS IT ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE?

There is no doubt that both Oxford and Cambridge have a long standing history of academia and achievements. Yet, what is often overlooked is the strong reputation of countless other universities in the UK.

A simple click on Google can tell students that the London School of Economics, for example, has over 18 Nobel prize winners and 50 world leaders. University College London attracts students from 150 countries and has exchange and research links with nearly 300 overseas universities. Manchester University has the largest student union of all UK universities and boasts alumni such as Alan Turing and Christabel Pankhurst.

So be open minded. It's all about finding the best place for you.

THE ACCESS PROJECT

OXBRIDGE PREPARATION

We guide students through the Oxbridge application process and prepare them with subject interviews. These are designed to mimic the unseen subject-specific materials which applicants are required to respond to. This part of the interview is usually the most challenging for students as they are expected to give an insightful, articulate and analytical response under pressure.

We also provide students with a personalised session with a recent Oxbridge graduate. This provides the opportunity to discuss practise and improve interview skills and techniques.

PEM-BROOKE PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Pembroke College, Oxford, the Pem-Brooke programme is an 8 months programme of demanding academic lectures and seminars provided by Oxford university academics. Students also benefit from mentoring by Pembroke college students.

There is a weekend school during the Easter holidays, and the programme culminates in a week-long residential summer school held at Oxford University during which students participate in life as an Oxford undergraduate.

WELL CONNECTED

Other unique opportunities CGA provides sixth formers with include:

K+ programme
(Kings College London)
Uni-link programme (UCL)
Goldsmiths progression scheme
Global Scholars (SOAS)

This year, 2 CGA sixth formers have secured a place on this prestigious programme!

This intensive academic approach is successful. Students on this programme have gone on to Oxford, Cambridge and other research-intensive universities.

IVY LEAGUE

SUTTON TRUST PROGRAMME

The Sutton Trust programme at CGA provides bright students with a taste of life at an American university.

The programme is centred on an all expenses paid one week summer school in the US at either Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University or Harvard and includes introductory events and application support in the UK before and after.

COMMON APP

The Common App is the American equivalent of UCAS. Students can search US universities courses and our sixth form team will guide students through the application process to ensure they are common app ready.

YOU WILL RECEIVE:

A week-long visit to the States where students will get a taste of US higher education and culture.

Comprehensive US admissions advice from experts.

Support from a dedicated team of knowledgeable advisors throughout the process of applying for admissions and financial aid at American universities.

In-depth admissions test prep.

Guidance for parents.

A chance to meet other UK students interested in studying in the US.

ARE CERTAIN A-LEVEL COMBINATIONS TOO NARROW?

There isn't a straight 'yes' or 'no' to this one - while you should choose the A-level subjects you think you'll enjoy, too much of a similar thing won't always be looked upon favourably by universities. As ever, it depends on your personal situation.

It's certainly true that some universities openly discourage students from taking certain combinations of A-level subjects - a quick flick through some online prospectuses confirms this:

'subjects of study in closely related areas or which contain a high proportion of common material (such as biology and human biology) will not normally be counted separately.'

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

'the combination of business studies and economics as two separate A-levels is best avoided.'

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

'breadth of subjects is valued by our selectors and therefore subjects with significantly overlapping curricula should be avoided where possible, for example economics and business studies.'

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

A LITTLE TOO CREATIVE OR PRACTICAL?

If you do too many practical or vocational subjects - such as PE, music technology, media studies, textiles or drama - it may restrict what you can do later down the line at university, because some unis include these in lists of 'non-preferred' subjects.

This only really becomes a potential problem when you choose more than one of these subjects. To keep your university course options as flexible as possible, you're better off combining one of these subjects with A-levels that universities traditionally look more favourably upon, such as the sciences, English, maths, history, geography and languages.

The issue usually comes up when you choose subjects covering a similar curriculum, rather than thinking about which subjects are essential or preferred for the university course you're interested in. For instance, if you want to study a degree in economics, it's probably a better idea to study maths at A-level than either economics or business studies.

BUT WHAT ABOUT...?

Sometimes, though, keeping your choices focused can be a good thing.

Languages: languages are good - do take more than one of them if you're lucky enough to be a talented linguist and are looking to work in a language-related field.

Social sciences: you shouldn't find there's any problem studying a couple of social science subjects such as politics, psychology, sociology or economics - provided you meet the right entry requirements for the course.

WHAT A-LEVELS DO YOU NEED FOR THE DEGREE YOU WANT TO STUDY?

Got an idea of the degree subject you want to study at university, but not sure what A-levels or equivalent qualifications you'll need? Take a look at our check-lists before you finalise your choices.

While many degrees will be open to you whatever subjects you choose, some courses will require or prefer you to have specific subjects in your A-level line-up. To find out the essential, useful and typical A-levels to have, select the degree subject area you're interested in from the list below:

ARCHITECTURE

ART & DESIGN

BIOCHEMISTRY

BIOLOGY

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

BUSINESS

CHEMISTRY

COMPUTER SCIENCE

DENTIST

DRAMA

ECONOMICS

ENGLISH

ENGINEERING

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

JOURNALISM

LAW

MATHS

MEDIA

MEDICINE

MIDWIFERY

MODERN LANGUAGES

NURSING

PHILOSOPHY

PHYSICS

PHYSIOTHERAPY

POLITICS

PSYCHOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY

TEACHING

VETERINARY SCIENCES

ARCHITECTURE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

A portfolio of drawings and sketches must be developed, and is required for interview

ESSENTIAL

Maths is usually specified, plus one additional science (physics preferred due to its numerical nature.)

USEFUL

Fine art.
Product design.

ART AND DESIGN

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Fine art.

Whether it's art, graphic design, illustration, fashion, textiles, fine art, sculpture, animation or photography - many universities or art colleges will be looking for you to have an art foundation qualification under your belt. This is a one-year course usually taken after A-levels and before progressing on to an art and design degree course. This will help you to build up the portfolio you need when applying to creative arts degree courses.

USEFUL

Product design.
Photography.
English literature.

CLAPTON GIRL



Emily Zell-Huxley

graduated: 2015

studied: Art Foundation
course at Plymouth College
of Art

BIOCHEMISTRY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Chemistry and often 2 others from biology, maths or physics.

Ideally suited if you have a strong interest in experimental work and cutting edge research.

If you want to study biochemistry, then it's crucial that you pick the right A-levels. Chemistry is a must-have subject wherever you plan to study, but there are certain other 'essentials' depending on the course you apply to.

CLAPTON GIRL



Maryam Syed

graduated: 2016

studying: Biochemistry at Queen Mary University

USEFUL

Biology.

Maths.

Physics.

BIOLOGY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Biology.

Many courses also require at least one from chemistry, physics or maths – preferences for particular subjects vary between universities.

If you're planning to study a biology or biological sciences degree, unsurprisingly the majority of courses will require you to have A-level biology under your belt, though a few may accept you with any science subject.

USEFUL

Chemistry.

Maths.

Physics.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Maths and/or physics (for building services engineering).

Whether you want to study building services engineering, building surveying or construction management, many building degree courses require you to have A-levels (or equivalent) in maths or physics (or both).

USEFUL

Maths.
Physics.
Product Design.
A science subject.

BUSINESS

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

None (very occasionally maths for management degrees).

Business studies and similar subjects such as accountancy and management are popular degrees that are normally open to you with any A-levels. However, certain A-level choices will help prepare you for business at degree level, and could give you an edge over other applicants.

USEFUL

Maths.
Business studies Level 3 BTEC
Economics.

CLAPTON GIRL



Habibe Alkilinc

graduated: 2016

studying: Business Management at Queen Mary University

CHEMISTRY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Chemistry.

Occasionally maths.

If you're thinking of taking a chemistry degree, you're probably already aware that A-level chemistry is a must-have. But what are the best subjects to combine it with? Read on...

USEFUL

Maths.

Biology.

Physics.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Maths for some courses.

Some computer science courses will require maths – and for a handful of courses, further maths is also preferred, but many others will accept you with just GCSE-level maths.

USEFUL

ICT/Computing

Further maths.

Physics.

Philosophy.

CLAPTON GIRL

Ling Guo

graduated: 2016

studying: Computer
Science at Queen Mary
University



DENTISTRY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Chemistry, biology and either maths or physics (or both) will keep all dentistry courses open to you.

If you don't take maths or physics but do take chemistry and biology, most courses will accept you.

If you only take one from chemistry or biology, fewer dentistry courses will accept you.

If you want to study dentistry, then it's crucial you pick the right A-levels. Most courses will ask for chemistry or biology or both, but a few will also expect maths or physics A-level.

USEFUL

Maths.

Physics.

DRAMA

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

If you're planning to study drama at university (the criticism and analysis of drama rather than focusing on performance) an A-level in English literature or English language and literature will keep all courses open to you.

You don't necessarily need an A-level in drama and theatre studies to study a degree in drama, although a few courses might ask for it.

USEFUL

English literature.

English literature and language.

Theatre studies.

ESSENTIAL

Some courses require English literature. A few courses ask for English and / or theatre studies.

CLAPTON GIRL



Ellora Torchia

graduated: 2010

studied: Acting at RADA

now: working as a professional actor

ECONOMICS

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Other typical A-levels taken by current economics students:

Further maths.
History.

ESSENTIAL

Maths (some courses).

You don't necessarily need A-level economics to study an economics degree, but some courses specify maths as a must-have A-level.

USEFUL

Economics.

CLAPTON GIRL



Lei-Yuan Dang

graduated: 2016

studying: Economics at
City University

Other typical A-levels taken by current English students:

Psychology.

ENGLISH

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

If you're planning to study English at university, an A-level in English literature or English language and literature will keep all English courses open to you. But you may find that combining your A-level in English with certain other subjects is a useful way to prepare for degree-level studies.

ESSENTIAL

English literature / English literature and language (some courses will accept English language on its own).

USEFUL

History.

Philosophy.

French or another foreign language.

ENGINEERING

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

CLAPTON GIRL



Aine Harnett-Lennon

graduated: 2016

studying: Engineering apprenticeship with Siemens

If you want to study engineering, then it's crucial that you pick the right A-levels. Maths is a must-have subject whatever type of engineering you want to study, but there are certain other 'essentials' or preferred subjects depending on the course you apply to.

ESSENTIAL

Maths.

Chemistry for chemical engineering.

Usually physics.

USEFUL

Further maths.

Product design.

GEOGRAPHY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Other typical A-levels taken by current geography students:

English literature.
History.

If you're planning to study geography at university, an A-level in geography will keep all courses open to you – though more unis than you might think will accept you without it. Some BSc degrees require you to have a science or maths A-level.

ESSENTIAL

Most courses require geography, but there are some exceptions.

USEFUL

Some BSc degrees prefer one or more of the following:

Biology.

Chemistry.

Maths.

Physics.

HISTORY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Other A-levels taken by current history students:

Geography.
Maths.

If you're planning to study history at university, an A-level in history will keep all courses open to you – though more unis than you might think will accept you without it. Either way, having a combination of essay-based subjects such as English literature and politics will set you in good stead for studying history at degree level.

ESSENTIAL

Most courses require history, but there are some exceptions

USEFUL

English literature.
Politics.
Philosophy.
Sociology.
Economics.

CLAPTON GIRL



Beth Foster-Ogg

graduated: 2015

studying: History & Politics
at Warwick University

Member of UK Youth Parliament

JOURNALISM

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

English Literature.

Due to the competitive nature of journalism course, students are advised to seek a period of work experience prior to submitting their UCAS application in order to provide evidence of a real passion for the subject. Work experience is not essential but is looked on favourably by top universities.

USEFUL

History.
English Language.

LAW

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

None.

Think you have to do A-level law to go on and study a degree in it? Not necessarily. Law is a popular degree that is normally open to you with any A-levels. However, certain A-level choices will help prepare you for law at degree level, and may give you an edge over other applicants.

USEFUL

Essay-based subjects such as history, geography or English will set you in good stead for law at degree level.

Many law students take at least one 'facilitating' subject such as a foreign language, maths, science, English, history or geography, which are deemed as good choices for students who want to keep their degree options flexible.

CLAPTON GIRL



Chrisann Jarrett

graduated: 2013

studying: Law at London School of Economics

Founder of 'Let us Learn' charity

Other typical A-levels taken by current maths students:

IT and computing.
Chemistry.
Business studies.

MATHS

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Maths, sometimes further maths

If you're planning to study maths at university, you may find that combining your A-level in maths with certain other subjects is a useful way to prepare for degree study. And it's not just further maths that will complement your maths A-level – IT and a science subject could help too.

USEFUL

Physics.

MEDIA

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

A few courses ask for English.

Media studies is a popular degree that is normally open to you with any A-levels. However, some smart A-level choices will help to better prepare you for media at degree level.

USEFUL

English.
ICT/Computing.
Sociology.
Psychology.

MEDICINE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Chemistry, biology and either maths or physics (or both) will keep all medical schools open to you.

If you don't take maths or physics but do take chemistry and biology, most courses will accept you.

If you only take one from chemistry or biology, fewer medical schools will accept you.

If you want to study medicine, then it's crucial that you pick the right A-levels. Chemistry is a must-have subject wherever you plan to study, but there are certain other 'essentials' depending on the particular university you want to go to.

USEFUL

Maths.
Physics.

DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE

Last year alone CGA had 4 medicine graduates, 4 biomedical graduates and 13 other medicine related graduates such as pharmacology, radiography and paramedical sciences.

CLAPTON GIRL



Nadiya Hussain
graduated: 2016
studying: Medicine at
Imperial College London

MIDWIFERY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

Some courses ask for biology or another science.

If you're interested in working with people, midwifery can be a rewarding role. As with many medical based roles, midwifery courses usually require at least one science. As care and people skills are central to midwifery, you may also find a social science useful.

USEFUL

Applied Science BTEC Level 3
Health & Social care BTEC Level 3
Sociology.
Psychology

MODERN LANGUAGES

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

French for a French degree and Spanish for a Spanish degree (in most cases).
An A-level in a modern language is usually required.

Other typical A-levels taken by current language students:

Geography.
Maths.

If you're planning to study a modern language such as French or Spanish at university, an A-level in your chosen language is, in most cases, an essential. For languages not so commonly offered in schools and colleges, such as Italian or Chinese, a modern foreign language is required or preferred.

CLAPTON GIRL

Brittnie Moss-Jeremiah
graduated: 2016

studying: Spanish and
Spanish Law at
Nottingham University.



USEFUL

Any other modern language.
English literature.
History.
Politics.

CLAPTON GIRL



Salimah Bilal

graduated: 2015

A-levels: French, History,
English Literature

now studying: French &
Arabic at Oxford University.

DESTINATION OXBRIDGE

“Throughout my A-levels, the teachers really pushed me and gave me the right amount of challenge in order for me to achieve my best. I also received one-on-one mentoring and support in preparation for my Oxford application. I couldn’t have done it without teachers who really care about me and know how to get the best out of me.”

NURSING

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Whether you’re interested in working with children or you’d prefer to specialise in mental health, unsurprisingly nursing courses usually require at least one science. As care and people skills are central to nursing, you may also find a social science useful.

USEFUL

Health and social care BTEC Level 3

Applied science BTEC Level 3

Psychology.

Sociology.

Chemistry.

ESSENTIAL

Some courses ask for biology or another science course.

CLAPTON GIRL



Yasmin Navsa

graduated: 2016

studying: Nursing at
Kings College London.

PHILOSOPHY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Other typical A-levels taken by current philosophy students:

English literature.
Government & Politics

ESSENTIAL

None.

Philosophy is a popular degree that is normally open to you with any A-levels. However, some smart A-level choices will help prepare you for philosophy at degree level.

USEFUL

Philosophy & ethics
History
Maths.

CLAPTON GIRL



Rae White

graduated: 2015

studying: Philosophy & politics at Sheffield University.

PHYSICS

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Not only is physics a must-have subject, but maths is essential too. A small number of courses will accept just one of these, but study both to keep all your options open.

ESSENTIAL

Maths.
Physics.

USEFUL

Further maths.
Chemistry.
Geography.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Requirements do vary from course-to-course, but the majority of physiotherapy courses will expect at least one science subject.

Other typical A-levels taken by current philosophy students:

Psychology.

ESSENTIAL

Biology for most courses.

USEFUL

Chemistry.

Maths.

Physics.

POLITICS

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Other typical A-levels taken by current politics students:

Sociology
English literature.
Maths.

ESSENTIAL

None.

Politics is a popular degree that is normally open to you with any A-levels. However, certain A-level choices will help to prepare you for studying politics at degree level.

USEFUL

Government & Politics.

History.

Philosophy.

CLAPTON GIRL

Gifty Dufie-Adu

graduated: 2016

studying: Politics & International Relations at Sheffield University



PSYCHOLOGY

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Psychology and other social sciences like sociology are popular degrees normally open to you with any A-levels. However, certain A-level subject choices will help prepare you for studying psychology at degree level, and may give you an edge over other applicants.

Other typical A-levels taken by current psychology students:

English.
History.

ESSENTIAL

A few courses ask for one or more from biology, chemistry, maths or physics.

USEFUL

Biology.
Maths.
Psychology.
Sociology.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

Sociology and other social sciences like psychology are popular degrees that are normally open to you with any A-levels. However, certain A-level choices will help prepare you for studying sociology at degree level.

ESSENTIAL

None.

USEFUL

Applied Science Level 3 BTEC.
Sociology.
Psychology.
Geography.

CLAPTON GIRL

Jumi Begum

graduated: 2016

studying: Counselling at
University of East London.



TEACHING

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

ESSENTIAL

At least one from:

Art & design, biology, chemistry, product design, English, French, geography, Spanish history, IT, Italian, maths, physics, philosophy & ethics.

You should also note that for primary teaching you must have GCSE maths 5, English 5 and science at grade C or above.

There are two main paths into teaching: you could take a teacher training undergraduate degree, or you could study a different subject and then take the postgraduate route into teaching (via a PGCE qualification).

The A-levels listed here refer to the teacher training degree requirements, whether you want to become a primary or a secondary school teacher. You should also decide whether or not there is a subject you want to specialise in.

USEFUL

Other typical A-levels taken by current teaching students

Psychology.

Sociology.

VETERINARY SCIENCE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE COURSE?

If you want to study veterinary science or medicine, it's crucial that you pick the right A-levels. Chemistry is a must-have subject wherever you plan to study, but there are certain other 'essentials' depending on the particular university you want to go to.

ESSENTIAL

Chemistry.

Combining chemistry, biology and either maths or physics (or taking both) is the best way to keep all veterinary courses open to you.

USEFUL

Biology.

Maths.

Physics.

CLAPTON GIRL

Emily Williams

graduated: 2016

studying: Bioveterinary Science at Royal Veterinary College



FIND OUT MORE

There are loads of people who can help you with your questions:

Sixth form team: Ms Reed, Mr Mountford or Ms Taplin

Careers Advisor: Ms Storey

Students: Y12 & Y13 prefects

GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO LIFE AS A SIXTH FORMER BY CHECKING OUT THE CGA SIXTH FORM BLOG. WRITTEN BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS.

**[HTTPS://
CGASIXTHFORM.
TUMBLR.COM/](https://cgasixthform.tumblr.com/)**



@ClaptonGA



[instagram.com/
claptongirls](https://www.instagram.com/claptongirls)



[facebook.com/
claptongirlsacademy](https://www.facebook.com/claptongirlsacademy)