

A Level choices: What you study shapes your future

Subjects taken at A-level can have a major impact on your young person's future direction so before embarking on two years' hard work it is well worth doing some research. Selecting the correct subjects carefully is really important – especially if he/she has aspirations to study at a university. Universities are not just looking for students with good grades, but with good grades in the *right subjects*. If your young adult already knows what they want to study at university, they should think about choosing subjects which gives them the best possible preparation for their chosen degree course. If he/she is not sure then it is important to choose subjects which will leave as many options open to them as possible.

Some A-level subjects are more widely accepted for entry to degree courses than others. We call these 'facilitating' subjects because choosing them at A level leaves open a wide range of options for university study.

These facilitating subjects are:

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Geography
- History
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Maths and Further Maths

How to choose the right A level subjects

If your young adult does not know what they want to study at university then it's a really good rule of thumb to study two facilitating subjects which will keep a wide range of degree courses open to him/her. There are 3 points to keep in mind to help making those choices easier.

- Choose subjects they enjoy. However consider 2 important factors here: *course content* and the *skills required* to achieve good grades.
- Select subjects which fit into their future study plans. It's a good idea to speak to a Careers advisor or contact the National Careers Service.
- Ask questions, of the grade and A-level subject teachers, to help with making an informed decision.

Find out more at: www.targetcareers.co.uk and www.studential.com

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