Selection of Subjects

Below is a general guide to Advanced level subjects needed for certain degree courses at universities and colleges of higher education. The list below is a guide and is not comprehensive; nor should the information be interpreted too literally - these are merely guidelines.

ARTS/HUMANITIES DEGREE COURSES	**Advanced Levels required**
American Studies	Some preference/occasional requirement for English or history
Archaeology	Most subjects acceptable but there is a preference for humanities
English	English required; foreign language useful
Fine Arts (also other Art courses)	Art degree courses require A level art, and often require a portfolio and hold interviews.
History	History preferred or required by most establishments. English and foreign languages can be useful.
Foreign Language	An advanced level in the main language to be studied is normally required for most European languages, particularly French and German. Two advanced level languages would in most cases be an advantage. 'Unusual' languages, e.g. Arabic and Chinese can be learnt from scratch
Music	Music required by most. A high standard of performance (Grade VII) usually required. A second instrument may also be preferred
Politics	Most subjects acceptable; history, economics, mathematics, foreign languages, English and geography can all be useful
Theology	Religious studies not essential; modern languages, English and history can all be useful
SCIENCE DEGREE COURSES	**Advanced Levels required**
Agriculture (and Horticulture/Forestry)	Chemistry is essential and preferably 2 from sciences/business studies/economics/geography/ mathematics/psychology
Bacteriology, Microbiology, Biochemistry	As for agriculture
Biology, Botany, Zoology, Ecology, etc	Chemistry and biology almost essential
Building	At least one of mathematics and physics - preferably both
Chemical Engineering	Preferably chemistry, mathematics and physics - definitely at least 2 of these
Chemistry (and Polymer Science)	Chemistry and at least one from mathematics, physics, biology. (Strong mathematics GCSE if not taken at A-level.)
Computer Science	Mathematics required/preferred at many places. Many courses accept a mixture of arts and sciences. Computing not essential.

Dentistry	Chemistry and one from physics, biology, mathematics
Engineering (Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Production, etc.)	Mathematics and physics essential. Design could be useful
Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics	Chemistry almost essential with at least one other science A level. Some accept psychology, geography, economics.
Geology (and Environmental Science)	A combination of sciences is required and geography is also useful
Mathematics and Statistics	One or sometimes 2 mathematics subjects essential. Further mathematics required at top universities.
Medicine	Chemistry essential and 2 from physics, biology and mathematics
Metallurgy (and Materials Science)	Physics and chemistry are most preferred; Mathematics is sometimes needed or taken instead of the other sciences
Nursing	Sciences, particularly chemistry and biology, are often preferred or required
Ophthalmic Optics	Minimum of two sciences - physics useful
Pharmacy/Pharmacology	Chemistry essential and 2 out of physics, mathematics and biology
Physics	Physics and mathematics essential
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, biology and physics almost essential. Mathematics acceptable at one or two Universities instead of physics/biology

Degree Courses Accepting Mixed Arts and Science Advanced Levels

For these courses, a range of subjects is acceptable unless stated otherwise.

Accountancy	**Mathematics required/preferred by a few places. Business and economics are useful.**
Architecture	Mathematics usually required, physics preferred by most; many universities require art as well. Many universities require a portfolio of artwork and require you to attend an interview. Often generated by A level art course. Portfolios often require drawing from life, life drawing and a wide range of other artwork ranging from 10-20 pages, some establishments require an electronic portfolio. Geography, English, history, design could also be useful.
Business Studies	Mathematics sometimes required; a foreign language, economics, business useful
Economics	Mathematics usually required. Further mathematics desired for most competitive universities. History useful for some courses. A-level economics is not always required but is useful.

Education	An Advanced level in the specialist subject of study is normally required. All intending teachers must have GCSE in English and mathematics
Geography	Geography required at most places, although some only prefer it or will accept students without it. Geology, biology, history, languages, mathematics, physics, chemistry and economics can all be useful.
Hotel/Catering Management/Operations	A variety of subjects can be useful including some Sciences and economics and business studies
Law	Useful subjects include essay based subjects and critical thinking. One facilitating subject is usually required.
Librarian/Information Science	Sciences and arts are equally acceptable, with a science more useful for information science. Degrees are often joint/combined and an Advanced level may therefore be needed in the other subjects studied
Philosophy	Arts and sciences equally acceptable. Mathematics, RS and philosophy useful.
Psychology	Some places require sciences, biology, mathematics, Statistics is useful. Other places are more flexible
Sociology (including Applied Sociology, Social Administration and Social Work)	Sociology, psychology, geography useful