



## Five steps to choosing the right Level 3 courses for you

### 1. Certain university courses will look for specific A-levels

You won't be able to apply to some university courses without having specific level 3 courses (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.

- Pharmacy must have: chemistry, plus at least one from biology, maths and physics
- Economics sometimes need: maths, very rarely do you need economics

If you already know what you want to study, check out the full entry requirement details for the course across different universities to make sure you are taking the correct pathway.

### 2. A-levels are a lot tougher than GCSEs

The reason you take a certain 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 A-level and Level 3 BTECs. You'll also see differences in the way you're taught and in what is expected of you.

### 3. Some courses and universities have lists of subjects they don't accept

Particular courses – take, for instance, an architecture course at the University of Bath – will view certain A-levels as less effective preparation for university studies than others. Similarly, some universities – such as the University of Sheffield – actually list which A-level subjects they prefer. Others, like the London School of Economics and Political Science (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.

### 4. Know myth from reality

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

For example you've heard that you have no chance of getting on to a 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. Do not to rely on what you hear through someone else - always to double check your facts.

No university requires Psychology A-level to study a Psychology degree!

### 5. Many universities and courses will consider you whatever you choose

**Question:** accountancy, archaeology, banking, business studies, hospitality, information science, law, management, marketing, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology, public relations, religious studies/theology, retail management, social work, sociology, television, travel and tourism. What do these subjects have in common?

**Answer:** They will all consider a wide range of subjects and do not normally have essential subject requirements!

