

# **Making informed Sixth Form choices**

# Aims of this presentation ...

- What courses do we offer at Freman College?
- How to choose subjects
- Which careers and degree courses require specific subjects?
- What do top universities want?
- How to research further

## **What are A-levels?**

- **Two-year course with exams at the end**

## **What are Applied qualifications?**

- **Two-year course with coursework throughout, plus small exams**

**Both qualifications offer routes into university degree courses**

# What courses will students be able to study at Freman College?

Art

Biology

Business Studies

Business Studies (Applied)

Computer Science

Chemistry

3D Product Design

Drama & Theatre Studies

English Language

English Literature

French

Further Maths

Geography

Health & Social Care (Applied)

History

Maths

Media Studies

Music

Photography

Physical Education

Physics

Psychology

Religious Studies

Sociology

Sport (Applied)

Sport (Applied - Extended Diploma)

# How many subjects?

Most students in the Sixth Form will study 3 main subjects (as A Levels or Applied qualifications)

Students can also study ...

- AS Level in Maths or Further Maths (worth 40% of an A level)
- Extended Project Qualification (worth 50% of an A level)

# How to choose subjects?

## Good reasons to choose a subject in the Sixth Form...

- You have already proved that you're good at it
- You have not studied it before but have researched it well and think it will suit your strengths
- You need it to enter a particular career or course

# How to choose subjects?

## Other factors worth considering...

- Will it go together well with the other subjects you're choosing?
  - eg. English Language & Sociology
  - Biology & PE
  - IT & Media Studies
- How much coursework / final exam do you want?

What if you have a good idea of the career or course you want to follow after Sixth Form?



The following slides offer advice based on guidance from highly selective universities



# Civil Engineering

Essential subjects ...

- Maths

Also useful...

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Geography



# Law

No essential subjects

Useful to have at least 1 “writing subject” ...

- English Literature / Language
- History, Geography, RE, Sociology



# Journalism

Advised subjects ...

- English Language or Media Studies
- One out of:  
Sociology, History, Geography, RE



# Accounting degree or apprenticeship

Advised subjects ...

- Maths

Also useful...

- Business A-level or Cam Tec



# Medicine

Essential subjects ...

- Chemistry and Biology

Also advised...

A third science subject or Maths will keep the widest number of Medicine options open, although some universities will accept students with a non-science subject as their third course.



# Veterinary Medicine

Essential subjects ...

- Chemistry and Biology

Also advised...

A third science subject or Maths will keep the widest number of Vet Medicine options open, although some universities will accept students with a non-science subject as their third course.



# Architecture

Advised subjects ...

- Maths
- Art

Also useful...

- Design Technology or Physics



# Physiotherapy

Essential subjects ...

- Biology

Also useful...

- One out of: Chemistry, Psychology, PE, Maths, Physics





# Criminology

Useful subjects ...

- Sociology
- Psychology



# Computer Science

Advised subjects ...

- Maths
- Computer Science



# Nursing / midwifery



Essential subjects ...

One science out of:

Biology (preferred), Chemistry, Psychology

Also useful...

- Health & Social Care

# Sport management

Advised subjects ...

- PE or Sport
- Business A-level or Cam Tec



# Primary teaching



Advised subjects ...

At least one out of:

English(any), Geography, History, Maths, Music, RE

Also useful...

- Health & Social Care

# Economics

Essential subjects ...

- Maths

Also useful...

- Further Maths, Computer Science



# Biological Sciences

Essential subjects ...

- At least one out of Chemistry or Biology



# Business-related courses / apprenticeships

Advised subjects ...

- Business Studies (A-level or Cam Tec)
- Maths

Also useful...

- Computer Science





# What do top universities want?



# What is the “Russell Group of Universities”?

Birmingham  
Cardiff  
Exeter  
Leeds  
Newcastle  
Queen Mary  
Southampton

Bristol  
Durham  
Glasgow  
Liverpool  
Nottingham  
Queen’s Belfast  
UCL

Cambridge  
Edinburgh  
Imperial  
LSE  
Oxford  
Queen’s Belfast  
Warwick

Kings College  
Manchester  
Sheffield  
York

A group of 24 universities that consistently score highly in league tables, and have a strong reputation within the professional world.

However, there are many excellent universities that are not members of the Russell Group, and RG universities are not the best at delivering all kinds of degree courses.

# “Facilitating subjects”

- Maths
- Further Maths
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- French

Russell Group universities have, in the past, advised students that studying one or two of these subjects in the Sixth Form can help to keep the greatest number of doors open when they apply to degree courses.

# Ideally, the very top universities want students to present them with a “package”

## Advice from Cambridge University:

- If you think you would like to **study sciences...**
  - Take at least two out of:  
Chemistry, Maths, Biology, Physics, Computer Science & Psychology  
(Other universities will often accept PE and Geography as sciences)
- If you think you would like to **study humanities...**
  - Take at least two out of English, History, Geography, RE, Psychology, Maths

# How to research further

<http://university.which.co.uk/a-level-explorer>



Find a course



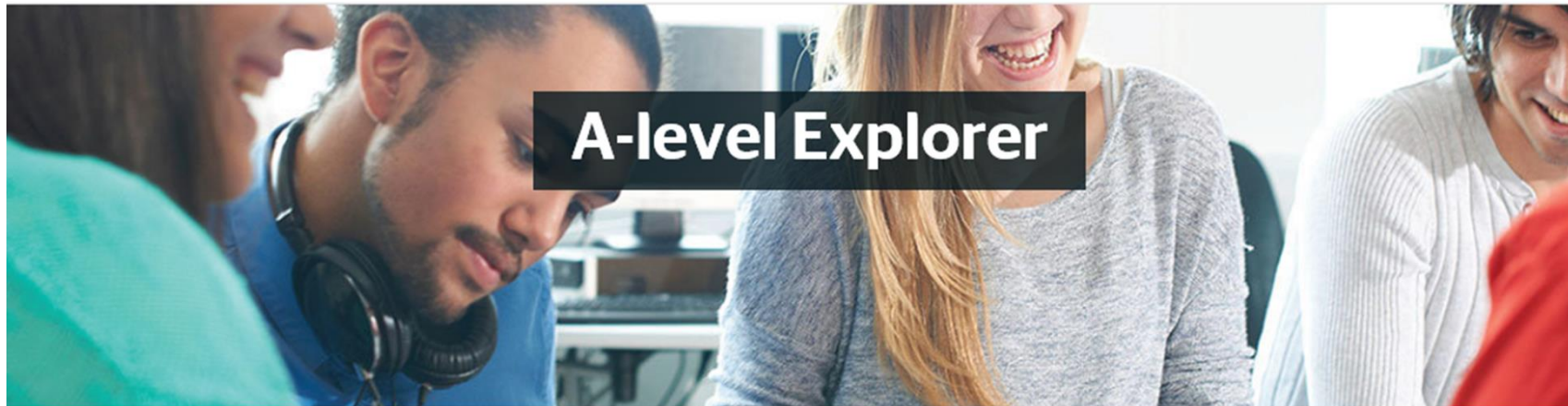
University profiles



Get advice



Teachers



**A-level Explorer**

Enter your preferred A Level courses to see a range of degrees and careers these might lead to.

See where your A-level choices will take you before it's too late.  
Enter yours below and find out now:

## Business and management studies

Gain a broad understanding of how commercial organisations are structured to succeed, covering specific areas like finance and human resources.

[Read full guide](#) >

### A-levels usually studied

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Mathematics

### Specific degree courses

- [International business studies courses](#) >
- [Retail management courses](#) >
- [All degree courses](#) >

### Popular careers

## Accounting

The collection and tracking of financial data for an organisation or individual.

[Read full guide](#) >

### A-levels usually studied

- Mathematics
- Economics
- Business Studies

### Specific degree courses

- [Accountancy courses](#) >
- [Accounting theory courses](#) >
- [All degree courses](#) >

### Popular careers

## Finance

The study of how individuals and organisations acquire and manage money.

[Read full guide](#) >

### A-levels usually studied

- Mathematics
- Economics
- Business Studies

### Specific degree courses

- [Financial management courses](#) >
- [Banking courses](#) >
- [All degree courses](#) >

### Popular careers

Or you can do it the other way around: name a career area you would like to get into and see which Sixth Form courses are recommended

# How to research further

<http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

The screenshot shows the top of the Informed Choices website. The header is dark blue with the Russell Group logo and 'Informed Choices' text on the left, and search and menu icons on the right. Below the header, a teal background features a white text block explaining the site's purpose. Two circular buttons, one purple and one red, offer different user paths. At the bottom, a group of diverse students is shown interacting with technology.

RUSSELL GROUP | Informed Choices

What you study at sixth form or college can affect your options at university and your future career. Use Informed Choices to help you understand which subjects open up different degrees, particularly at Russell Group universities.

I don't know what degree I would like to study

I know what degree I want to study

The Russell Group of Universities suggest Sixth Form courses that would be favoured by university admissions tutors for specific degree courses

# How to research further

[www.Unifrog.org.uk](http://www.Unifrog.org.uk)

Exploring pathways

Careers library

✘ Careers favourited

Go to tool >

Subjects library

✔ Subjects favourited

Go to tool >

Know-how library

✘ Guides favourited

Go to tool >

MOOC

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

Personality profile

✔ Quiz completed: ESFJ and ESFP

Start >

Interests profile

✘ Quiz not taken

Start >

Unifrog is a subscription site which Freman College students have an account with.