Fallibroome Sixth Form

Considering A levels and University?

GCSE Options Information

January 2022

What GCSEs will I need for university?

- Specific GCSE subject requirements for university are fairly rare
- Standard expectation of English (usually Language) and Mathematics to Grade 4
- Sometimes there might be requirement for a specific *number* of GCSEs, sometimes at specific grades for a particular course or apprenticeship
- Dual Science and Separate Sciences are both acceptable for the majority of courses

Preparing for A Level

- Most subjects at A level require an ‘upper’ grade 5 at GCSE in that same subject. Maths requires a grade 6

- There are subjects that can be taken at A level without having done them at GCSE. (Business, History, Music Technology, Psychology, Sociology, Government and Politics, Economics, Media Studies etc.) Speak to teaching staff about this.

- Further information can be found here: https://fallibroome.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Subject-Entry-Criteria-2022-Final.pdf

Research is key …

- Search a range of university websites, find subject, or subject area, and look under ‘Entry Requirements’

- Explore a ‘range’ of universities – from Oxford and Cambridge, to Durham, Birmingham, Cardiff, and Aberystwyth to UCLAN.

Some examples of specific requirements …

- Some universities require higher than grade 4 in English Language/Maths
- Some universities will not accept English Literature grade 4 in lieu of Language
- UCL requires a GCSE in a language to apply for degree subjects

Medicine

The University of Manchester

- We require at least seven GCSEs at Grade A/7 or A*/8+.

  English Language, Mathematics and at least two science subjects are required at GCSE minimum Grade B. If Dual Award Science or Core and Additional Science are offered, the minimum required is BB.

  If you are resitting any GCSE subjects, you must explain the circumstances that prompted this.

In summary …

- Choose subjects you will achieve well in to keep as many ‘doors open’ as possible
- Consider a range of skills – essay writing, research, practical coursework, numeracy etc
- Aim as high as possible in English (Language) and Mathematics
- Choose GCSE subjects to help best prepare for A level
- Carry out some university research about their requirements
- Choose subjects you enjoy

Useful Links

- BBC Bitesize Guide
- Which? University Guide to Choosing GCSEs
- Target Careers

Any questions: please contact
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