



A Level/Pre-U Choices: What GCSE Subjects are Required, Recommended or Useful?

The table below provides general guidance on the link between GCSE and Sixth Form subjects. Subjects without a GCSE equivalent in Abingdon's curriculum are indicated with an asterisk (*).

A Level / Pre• U Subject	GCSE Subjects (see notes at end for definitions)			Note
	Required	Recommended	Useful	
Ancient History			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient History • English Lang/Lit • History 	
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art (<i>see note</i>) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design & Tech. 	In very particular circumstances, students who have not taken GCSE Art may be permitted to take A Level Art. Speak with the Head of Art.
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths • Biology or DA Science 			
Business (*)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Lang/Lit • Maths • History • Geography 	The ability to analyse and then produce fluent, sustained writing are key skills, coupled with a strong level of numeracy.
Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths • Chemistry or DA Science 			
Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science 	Students who have not done GCSE CS should speak to the Head of Department. Some catch•up work in programming may be needed.
Design & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D&T (<i>see note</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Electronics/CS • English Lang/Lit • Geography • Physics 	A Level D&T builds on GCSE D&T, so pupils without GCSE D&T may be at a disadvantage at first but can still prosper if they have the right approach.

Drama (with SHSK girls and taught jointly by Abingdon and SHSK)		• Drama	• Art • English Lang/Lit • History • Music	
Economics (*) (with SHSK girls and taught by Abingdon)		• Maths	• English Lang/Lit • Geography • History • Additional Maths	Achievement in certain mathematical skills is useful for Economics but so is the ability to produce fluent, sustained writing. Geography also covers useful, relevant skills and knowledge.
English Literature	• English Literature	• English	• Ancient History • Drama • History	
French (pre-U)	• French		• English Lang/Lit • Any other MFL • Latin	
Geography	• Geography (see note)		• English Lang/Lit * Biology	In very particular circumstances, students who have not taken GCSE Geography will be permitted to take A Level Geography. Speak with the Head of Geography.
German (pre-U)	• German		• English Lang/Lit • Latin • Any other MFL	
Gov't & Politics (*) (with SHSK girls and taught by SHSK)			• English Lang/Lit • History	The ability to analyse and produce lengthy, sustained writing are key skills for this subject.
Greek	• Greek			
History	• History		• Ancient History • English Lang/Lit	In very particular circumstances, students who have not taken GCSE History will be permitted to take A Level History. Speak with the Head of History; a strong performance in English Lit/Lang would be expected. .
Latin	• Latin			
Maths	• Maths		• Additional Maths	Students need to be good at algebra as this underpins much of the A level course. A thorough understanding of all topics at GCSE is helpful.
Further Maths	• Maths	• Additional Maths (see note)		Students who have not done Additional Maths will be expected to work on Maths over the summer holiday before starting A Level. The pace of FM is fast, and students must be particularly strong in algebra.
Music	• Music (see note)			In very particular circumstances, students who have not taken GCSE Music will be permitted to take A Level Music. Speak with the Director of Music. In such circumstances a candidate will already play a musical instrument at a high standard and will therefore also have a strong theoretical knowledge.

Philosophy (*)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Lang/Lit • History • Maths • Religious Studies 	Philosophy is about thinking in a logical and metaphysical manner. Candidates should have a strong set of GCSE grades, especially in essay-based subjects, and be able to tackle logical problems such as are found in Maths.
Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths • Physics or DA Science 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Maths • Design & Tech. • Electronics • Computer Science 	
Religious Studies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient History • English Lang/Lit • Geography • History 	An ability to argue effectively and analyse arguments is required in RS. You should also show competence in structured and extended writing through good GCSE grades in relevant subjects.
Spanish (pre-U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Lang/Lit • Any other MFL • Latin 	

Notes:

Required: Indicates a GCSE that, except in very particular circumstances, **must** have been studied in order to be able to access this Sixth Form course. When it comes to actual achievement in this GCSE, there is a strong link between high level GCSE achievement and likely success in this Sixth Form course.

Recommended: Indicates a GCSE that, while not required, **ideally** would have been taken. When it comes to actual achievement in this GCSE, there is a good link between high level GCSE achievement and likely success in this Sixth Form course.

Useful: Indicates a GCSE that will support an ambition to study this Sixth Form course, usually because of transferable skills gained from the GCSE subject. When it comes to actual achievement in this GCSE, there is a decent link between high level GCSE achievement and likely success in this Sixth Form course.