



- Why 'Informed Choices'?
 - Collaborative project with Institute of Careers
 Guidance
 - Shared concern about access to IAG and its impact on post-16 subject choices
 - http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informedchoices.aspx



- Who is it for?
 - Students making post-16 subject choices
 - Parents and advisers supporting them
- A careers guidance resource NOT an exhaustive catalogue of Russell Group university entry requirements

ATTENTION!!

Although there are common themes, entry requirements (even for very similar courses) can vary from one university to another so you should only use this information as a general guide. All Russell Group universities provide more detailed information about entry requirements on their own websites or in their prospectuses. As your plans become firmer, it's essential that you check these to be sure that you are aware of the most up-to-date entry requirements for your chosen course.

Informed choices

- What qualifications does it cover?
 - 'Standard' level qualifications such as GCSEs;
 IGCSEs; Standard and Intermediate grades in
 Scotland; the IB Middle years programme
 - 'Advanced' level qualifications such as 'A' and 'AS'
 Levels; Advanced Diplomas; Highers and Advanced
 Highers in Scotland; Standard and Higher Level in the
 International baccalaureate; Welsh baccalaureate
- Written to have as broad relevance as possible

Informed choices

- How should it be used?
 - Familiarise yourself with the broad structure and content of specific post-16 qualifications
 - If you have a specific degree programme in mind,
 look into the implications for post-16 subject choices
 - If you are unsure of your plans beyond school, think about strategies for keeping your options open
 - Consider the impact of your post-16 subject choices for future career options



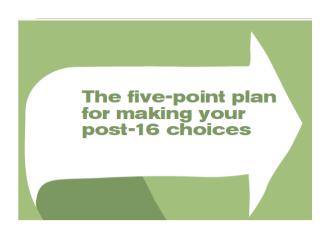
- Universities may ask for a specific number of GCSEs (or equivalent)
- GCSE English (or equivalent) often required at C or above - for any course. Mathematics also often required
- Some universities require all grades & subjects to be achieved at one sitting
- There is also a wide variety of course-specific requirements



- Post-16 subject choices General Considerations
 - You have been good at and enjoyed a subject in the past
 - You need a subject to enter a particular career or course
 - You have not studied the subject before but have looked into it and think it will suit your strengths



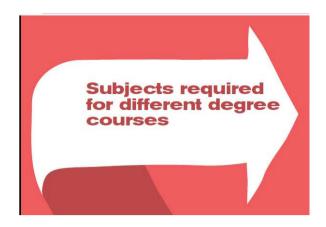
- Post-16 subject choices further considerations
 - Some subjects are distinctly more difficult at advanced level than at standard level
 - Make sure you get your facts straight there are many misconceptions about subjects required for courses and careers
 - Don't take an un-informed risk what is the new subject actually about?



- Know what you want to study? Check out the entry requirements!
- Not sure yet? Keep your options open
- GCSEs and other standard level qualifications matter
- Think balance
- Make sure you know WHY!



- If you know what you want to study at University, check the UCAS website for detailed entry requirements:
 - www.ucas.com



Subject of interest

Advanced level subjects which ARE LIKELY TO BE ESSENTIAL when applying for this subject at university. NOTE: this does not mean that ALL Russell Group universities will require them.

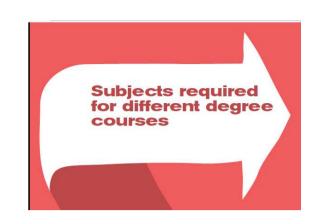
Medicine

ESSENTIA) ADMINICED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

keep all the medical schools open to you, If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will Mathematics and Physics you will limit your do Chemistry and Biology USEFUL DVANCED LEVEL DUALIFICATIONS

Earther Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject.

Advanced level subjects which MAY be useful when applying for this subject at university.



Mechanical Engineering

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL DUALIFICATIONS Mathematics, Physics,

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS Further Mathematics, Design Technology.

Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference for Mathematics A-levels with a strong mechanics component.

Accountancy (also Banking/Finance/Insurance) ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL DUMINICATIONS

Usually none although one or two universities require Mathematics. ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL DUMLIFICATIONS

Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma). USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL DUAUFICATANS

and Economics.

English Literature or combined English Language & ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS English (some courses will accept English Language).

USEFUL ACTIVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

Law

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS Usually none, although a few universities require English.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS History; other facilitating subjects.

There really are no essential subjects for Law. Maybe one choice should involve ... essay / report writing. History gives you good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.

Making your post-16 subject choices

- What subjects will give me the most options?
 - Mathematics and Further Mathematics
 - English (literature)
 - Physics
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Geography
 - History
 - Languages (classical and modern)

The 'facilitating' subjects



- Common themes
 - The scientist
 - E.g. Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths.
 - Or Chemistry, Physics, Maths + Politics?
 - Essays, essays, essays
 - E.g. History, English literature, Politics, Sociology
 - The linguist
 - May emphasise linguistic abilities by taking 2 languages
 - The artist
 - Music? Art and Design? Drama?

Making your post-16 subject choices

Do universities prefer certain advanced level subjects over others?

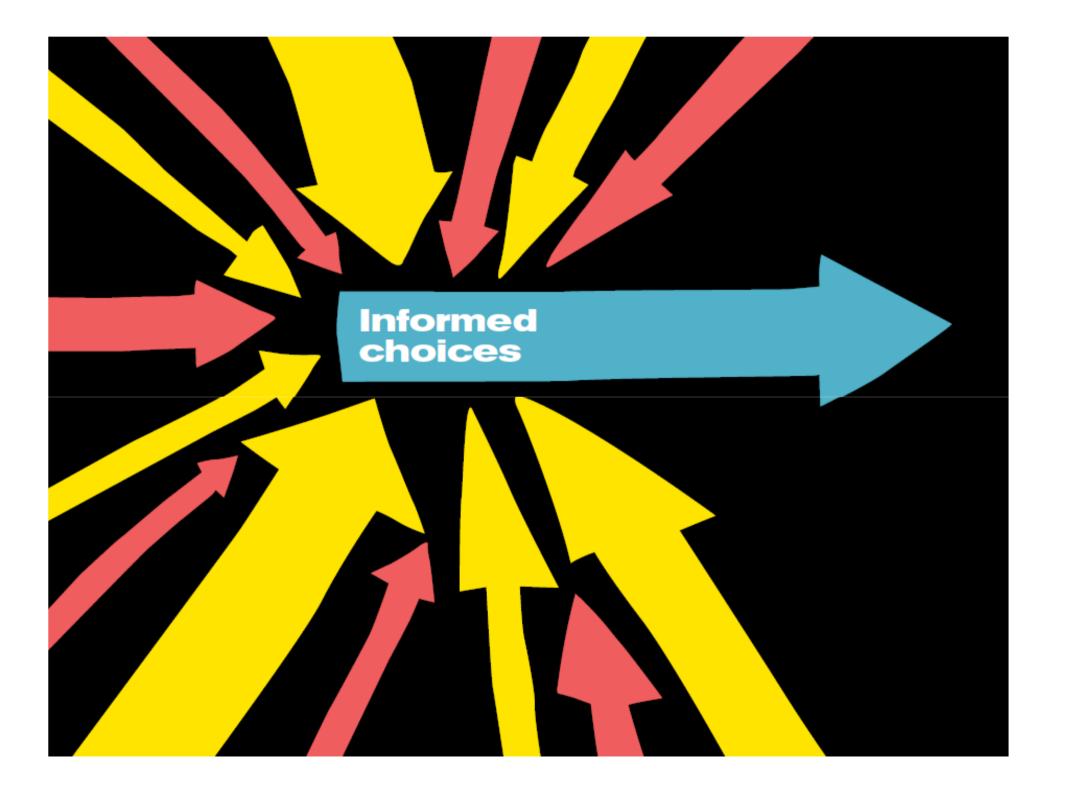
- Rumours are many...and varied!
- 'Hard' and 'soft' subjects no fixed definition
 - 'hard' subjects usually more traditional & theoretical – e.g. English, History, Physics, Chemistry
 - All 'facilitating' subjects are 'hard' with additions such as Economics & Politics
 - Subjects considered 'soft' are usually more vocational or practical ones – e.g. Media Studies, Art & Design; Photography; Business Studies.



Do universities prefer certain advanced level subjects over others?

 Generally – students who choose one 'soft' subject as part of a wider portfolio do not experience problems.







- Did you hear anything new or surprising?
- What do you think the implications are for your students, or young people you work with?
- Are there any implications for your organisation?