

# Mounts Bay Academy Guide

## Choosing A Levels



### Research your subject choices

A Levels are a great qualification to keep a wide range of options open and show your academic potential. They are predominantly exam based assessments but may involve some coursework and practical assessments. Students usually take 3 A Level subjects over 2 years.

For useful advice on A Level combinations check out **Russell Group Informed Choices** for advice on subject combinations for university.

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

If you are unsure about what you want to study, you may want to consider facilitating subjects below as these may be essential for some degrees: **English Literature, Mathematics & Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Classic and Modern Foreign Languages.**

You may also want to consider your subject preferences:

**Science & Maths** - STEM subjects in demand

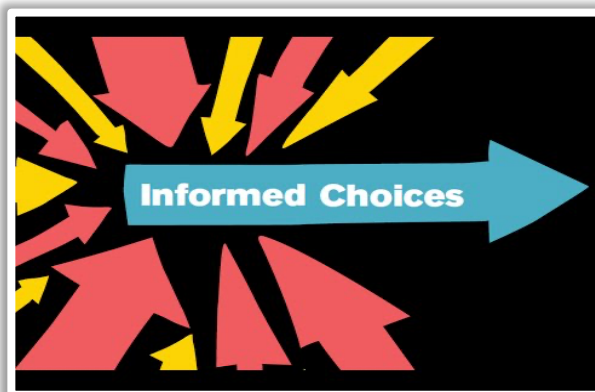
**Social Sciences** - study of human society and relationships  
Business, Economics, Geography, Law, Politics, Sociology

**Creative Arts** - Art, Dance, Drama, Design, Music

**Humanities** - study of human culture

English Lit, History, Philosophy

**Languages** - French, German, Italian, Spanish



**“Make good choices today so you don’t have regrets tomorrow”**

Alternative Level 3 Post 16 courses:

**T Levels**

**International Baccalaureate**

**BTEC Extended Diplomas**

**National Certificates**

Some uni courses do not require A Levels in that subject: Eg: **Accountancy, Business, Law, Media, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, RE, Sociology.**

## Qualifications Required for A Levels

You will need to achieve minimum of 5 GCSE's at 4/5 or above with **GRADE 6** in the subjects you want to take at A Level. A Levels are a good choice for keeping a wide range of career options open, and are suited to an academic style of learning. If you are aiming for a high performing college or university you should aim for GCSE's at 7 and above as there is more competition for these places.

The majority of Universities welcome equivalent qualifications to A Levels so choose A Levels because you enjoy an academic style of learning and have the GCSE grades to do them, as if you feel you would do better with more coursework style of assessment combined with work experience you may do better with a BTEC or a T Level and still achieve the equivalent of 3 A Levels. Learners who achieve 4-5 at GCSE's generally prefer the vocational course learning style and do better as a result.

**UCAS** Check out undergraduate entry requirements for university courses on [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) to ensure you are considering the right subjects if you are considering a particular university course (s). Your A Level grades and other qualifications at Level 3 are worth UCAS points for university courses, referred to as the UCAS Tariff. Further info on <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>

A LEVELS	Extended Certificate	BTEC Extended Diploma	T Levels
<b>A* = 56</b>	<b>D* = 56</b>	<b>D*D*D* = 168</b>	<b>Dist* = 168</b>
<b>A = 48</b>	<b>D = 48</b>	<b>D*D*D = 160</b>	<b>Distinction = 144</b>
<b>B = 40</b>	<b>M = 32</b>	<b>D*DD = 152</b>	<b>Merit = 120</b>
<b>C = 32</b>	<b>P = 16</b>	<b>DDD = 144</b>	<b>Pass = 96</b>
<b>D = 24</b>		<b>DDM = 128</b>	
<b>E = 16</b>		<b>DMM = 112</b>	
		<b>MMM = 96</b>	
		<b>MMP = 80</b>	
		<b>MPP = 64</b>	
		<b>PPP = 48</b>	

Check out these sites to find out more about A Level Choices:

- 1) <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/a-levels>
- 2) <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/what-to-study/choosing-a-levels>
- 3) <https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices>
- 4) <http://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/what-a-levels-do-you-need-for-the-degree-you-want-to-study>

If you are not sure what you want to do, or would like further information these websites can help you explore your career ideas

- 1) [National Careers Service](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers)
- 2) [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/)
- 3) [Career Pilot](https://careerplilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16)

