



CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

Popularity of A level subjects among UK university students

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1. Introduction

In England the principal measure of academic attainment for 18 year-old pre-university learners is the A level, a general qualification in which learners are awarded grades to reflect their attainment in each subject that they have chosen to study.

In recent years, over 80 different subjects have been offered at A level by the three main awarding bodies in England. Learners can decide which and how many of those subjects they wish to study depending on, for example, their career choices, their academic ability, the provision at their school/college or the advice given to them. Students aiming for university typically study three or four subjects at A level.

Choosing A levels however is not straightforward as some subjects might be seen as providing better grounding for university courses than others.

The aim of this statistical research report was, therefore, to investigate the proportions of students who hold each A level subject (or combinations of A level subjects) when applying for a place at university.

In particular, the research focused on:

- the uptake of A level subjects, and combinations of A level subjects, among university applicants and accepted applicants;
- a comparison of the uptake of A level subjects, and combinations of A level subjects, between university applicants, accepted applicants and the whole A level cohort;
- the uptake of A level subjects, and combinations of A level subjects, among accepted applicants
 - by university group,
 - by degree subject at university;
- a comparison of performance in the most popular A level subjects, and in combinations of A level subjects, between accepted applicants and the whole A level cohort;
- the performance in the most popular A level subjects, and in the combinations of A level subjects, among accepted applicants
 - by university mission group,
 - by degree subject at university¹.

The outcomes of this research may inform the usefulness of specific A level subjects or combinations of A level subjects as currency for university study.

¹ Analyses looking at A level performance by degree subject at university have been carried out and are available upon request for each individual subject area. They are not included in this report as they would generate in excess of 30 pages of tables/graphs.

2. Description of the data

The main source of data for the analyses carried out in this report was provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS²) and contains, for all students applying to study at a UK university during the 2010/11 application cycle and who obtained at least one A level, the following information:

- A level subjects studied
- Grades achieved in the A level subjects
- University mission group (accepted applicants only)
- Subject of study at university (accepted applicants only)
- Applicant flag
- Accept flag

The subject of study at university was provided as a list of 180 subject lines (using the JACS³ system). These relate to the principal subject of the student's qualification aim. The subject of study was aggregated into 25 broad degree subject areas. Appendix A lists the subject lines and degree subject areas used in this research.

For example, a student accepted to study for a degree in mathematics (G100) would be classified in the subject line 'Mathematics' and the subject area 'Mathematical & Computer Science'. Similarly, a student accepted to study for a degree in statistics (G300) would be classified in the subject line 'Statistics' and the subject area 'Mathematical & Computer Science'. The analyses presented in this report were carried out at degree subject area level.

The higher education institutions are considered in groups through which they share ideas and resources regarding issues and procedures in the higher education sector. The groups provided by UCAS for this research are⁴: The Russell Group, The 1994 Group, University Alliance and The Million+ Group. Appendix B shows a description of each group and provides a list of its members. It should be noted that some universities might not have joined any of the groups above and therefore would be classified as Other.

Appendix C contains general information on acceptances for higher education courses in the 2010/11 application cycle by university group and subject group⁵.

Data on the uptake of and performance in A level subjects for the **full** A level cohort in 2011 was obtained from the National Pupil Database (NPD). This database, compiled by the Department for Education, is a longitudinal database for all children in schools in England, linking student characteristics to school and college learning aims and attainment. The NPD holds pupil and school characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, level of deprivation, attendance and exclusions, matched to pupil level attainment data (Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 5 assessments and other external examinations).

² UCAS cannot accept responsibility for any inferences or conclusions derived from the data by third parties.

³ The Joint Academic Classification of Subjects (JACS) system is used by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) to classify academic subjects, especially for undergraduate degrees.

⁴ UCAS did not provide data at individual institution level due to confidentiality issues.

⁵ Source: http://www.ucas.com/about_us/stat_services/stats_online/data_tables/datasummary.

In the following sections of this report, descriptive statistics provide information on the destinations (universities and degree subject areas) of students with each A level subject and with the most popular combinations of A level subjects.

3. Results

3.1 Individual A level subjects

3.1.1 Uptake

The tables presented in this section of the report show which individual A level subjects were most commonly held by undergraduates in UK higher education institutions in the academic year 2011/12.

As stated in Sections 1 and 2, the uptake of A level subjects is investigated in five university mission groups and in 25 degree subject areas. In order to simplify the presentation of the results from those analyses, degree subjects areas were grouped in five broad groups, as shown in Table 1, and five separate tables/figures were provided.

Table 1: Classification of degree subject area

<i>Degree subject group</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>
Group 1	Subjects allied to Medicine Biological Sciences Medicine & Dentistry Veterinary Science, Agriculture & related subjects
Group 2	Architecture, Building and Planning Engineering Mathematics & Computer Science Physical Sciences Technologies
Group 3	Business & Administrative Studies Mass Communications & Documentation Creative Arts & Design Education Social Studies
Group 4	European Languages, Literature & related subjects History & Philosophical studies Law Linguistics, Classics & related subjects Non-European Languages & related subjects
Group 5	Combined Arts Combined Sciences Combined Social Sciences Sciences combined with social sciences or arts Social sciences combined with arts General, other combined & unknown

Some of the tables in this section display a comparison of the uptake of A level subjects between university applicants, accepted applicants and the whole A level cohort. It should be noted though that some A level subjects featured in the UCAS data and not in the June 2011 extract of the NPD. Some examples of this were Divinity, Hindi, Biblical Hebrew or Islamic Studies, which students applying to university held but did not appear in the NPD. One possible explanation for this is that the coding of the subjects was different in both datasets and, for example, Biblical Hebrew, present in the UCAS data as such, appeared in the NPD under 'Other Classical Languages'.

Table 2 shows the uptake of individual A level subjects among university applicants in the 2010/11 application cycle and it compares that to the uptake of these subjects by the whole A level cohort in 2011. All A level subjects present in the UCAS data were included in the table and were ordered alphabetically. Thus, Accounting, the subject presented first, was taken by 1.5% of the university applicants in the 2010/11 admissions cycle. This compares with Accounting being taken by 1.4% of the accepted applicants for undergraduate courses and 0.9% of the A level cohort in 2011.

The most popular subject among university applicants was Mathematics (around 30% of the accepted applicants held an A level in this subject), followed by Biology, History, Chemistry and English Literature. It should be noted that the order of the subjects by their popularity was fairly similar in all three groups of students.

The percentages of students holding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects at A level was higher among accepted applicants and university applicants in general than among all A level students. This pattern was also similar in most humanities subjects but reversed in subjects such as Art & Design, Music, and Design & Technology.

The uptake of individual A level subjects (as above) is presented, broken down by degree subject and university mission group in Table 3 and Tables 4(a) to 4(e), respectively.

Table 3 shows, for example, that Mathematics was taken by 50.9% of the accepted applicants to Russell Group universities, 43.3% of the accepted applicants to universities in the 1994 Group, and 20.9% and 15.7% of the accepted applicants to universities in the University Alliance and the Million+ groups, respectively.

Table 3 also shows that students accepted to Russell Group and 1994 Group universities held in higher proportions A levels in other STEM subjects (e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Further Mathematics) and in foreign languages (e.g. French, German, Spanish) than students accepted to universities in the University Alliance or the Million+ Group. There was also variation in the uptake between university groups of more applied subjects (e.g. Design & Technology, Art & Design, Business Studies, ICT, Media Studies) or humanities (e.g. Psychology, Sociology). However, higher proportions of students in the University Alliance or the Million+ Group universities held A levels in those subjects than students in universities of the Russell Group and the 1994 Group.

Tables 4(a) to 4(e), presenting the uptake of individual A level subjects by degree subject, show, for example, that Mathematics was taken by 68.2% of the candidates accepted to pursue a degree in 'Mathematics & Computer Science', by 33.2% of the candidates accepted to 'Subjects allied to Medicine' degrees and by only 18.2% of the candidates accepted to study 'European Languages, Literature & related subjects'.

Table 2: Uptake of A level subjects⁶

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University applicants (N = 304867)</i>	<i>Accepted applicants (N = 252126)</i>	<i>A level students (N = 291611)</i>	<i>Acceptance rate (%)</i>
ACCOUNTING	1.5	1.4	0.9	76.4
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.2	0.2	0.2	84.9
ARABIC	0.2	0.1	0.1	69.2
ARCHAEOLOGY	0.1	0.1	0.1	87.3
ART & DESIGN	13.0	12.8	15.8	81.6
BENGALI	0.0	0.0	0.0	82.1
BIBLICAL HEBREW	0.0	0.0	.	66.7
BIOLOGY	21.3	21.3	15.5	82.7
BUSINESS STUDIES	9.6	9.7	7.4	83.4
CHEMISTRY	18.1	18.1	12.1	82.6
CHINESE	0.9	0.8	0.6	77.0
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.2	0.2	0.2	87.0
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	1.2	1.3	1.0	86.9
CLASSICAL GREEK	0.1	0.1	0.1	88.2
CLASSICS	0.1	0.1	0.1	84.4
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	0.6	0.6	0.5	83.9
COMPUTING	1.2	1.3	1.0	86.4
CRITICAL THINKING	0.6	0.7	0.5	88.8
DANCE	0.7	0.6	0.7	74.2
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	5.6	5.6	5.7	82.9
DIVINITY	0.0	.	.	0.0
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	5.3	5.1	4.4	79.5
DUTCH	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.6
ECONOMICS	8.5	8.6	5.8	83.7
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	0.7	0.7	0.6	85.9
ELECTRONICS	0.4	0.4	0.3	86.7
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	7.5	7.7	6.7	84.8
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	5.6	5.7	4.6	84.5
ENGLISH LITERATURE	17.3	17.9	13.2	85.6
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.4	0.5	0.4	86.3
FILM STUDIES	2.1	2.1	1.8	82.2
FOOD STUDIES	0.0	0.0	.	55.6
FRENCH	4.6	4.9	3.5	87.9
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	4.8	5.1	3.1	88.4
GENERAL STUDIES	13.7	14.8	13.1	89.4
GEOGRAPHY	10.6	11.2	8.3	87.3
GEOLOGY	0.6	0.6	0.5	87.7
GERMAN	1.6	1.7	1.3	87.6
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	5.1	5.4	3.8	87.5
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	0.4	0.4	.	82.0

⁶ In the following tables percentages have been rounded and, therefore, even when the uptake is 0.0 there are a very small number of candidates taking the A level subject. '.' indicates that no candidates took the subject.

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University applicants (N = 304867)</i>	<i>Accepted applicants (N = 252126)</i>	<i>A level students (N = 291611)</i>	<i>Acceptance rate (%)</i>
GREEK	0.1	0.1	0.0	85.6
GUJARATI	0.0	0.0	0.0	73.3
HINDI	0.0	0.0	.	25.0
HISTORY	17.4	18.3	13.5	87.1
HISTORY OF ART	0.4	0.4	0.3	82.1
HOME ECONOMICS	0.3	0.3	0.1	79.9
HUMAN BIOLOGY	0.8	0.7	.	81.5
ICT	3.6	3.6	2.5	82.2
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.1	0.1	.	71.1
ISLAMIC STUDIES	0.0	0.0	.	100.0
ITALIAN	0.2	0.2	0.2	86.4
JAPANESE	0.1	0.1	0.1	81.3
LATIN	0.5	0.5	0.4	88.7
LAW	4.6	4.7	3.6	85.3
MARINE SCIENCE	0.0	0.0	.	42.9
MATHEMATICS	29.4	30.0	20.3	84.5
MEDIA STUDIES	8.1	8.0	6.9	82.2
MODERN HEBREW	0.0	0.0	0.0	69.4
MUSIC	2.9	2.9	3.3	83.1
PANJABI	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.2
PERFORMANCE ARTS	0.9	0.9	0.4	75.8
PERSIAN	0.0	0.1	0.0	89.1
PHILOSOPHY	1.1	1.1	0.9	86.7
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	6.1	6.1	5.1	82.1
PHYSICS	12.4	12.6	8.3	84.4
POLISH	0.1	0.1	0.1	84.1
PORTUGUESE	0.1	0.1	0.1	80.1
PSYCHOLOGY	18.3	18.7	15.2	84.6
PURE MATHEMATICS	0.2	0.2	0.0	79.2
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	7.5	7.7	5.4	84.8
RUSSIAN	0.3	0.3	0.2	87.2
SANSKRIT	0.0	0.0	.	100.0
SCIENCE	0.1	0.1	0.1	83.9
SOCIOLOGY	9.7	9.8	7.4	83.2
SPANISH	2.6	2.8	1.9	86.9
STATISTICS	0.3	0.3	0.2	82.4
TAMIL	0.0	0.0	.	100.0
TURKISH	0.1	0.1	0.1	83.2
URDU	0.2	0.1	0.1	64.4
USE OF MATHEMATICS	0.1	0.1	0.1	81.0
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.1	0.1	.	88.7
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.2	0.2	0.0	82.7
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.2	0.2	0.1	84.1

Table 3: Uptake of A level subjects, by university mission group to which applicants were accepted

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University Mission Group</i>				
	<i>Russell Group</i> (N = 61514)	<i>1994 Group</i> (N = 32340)	<i>University Alliance</i> (N = 63027)	<i>Million+ Group</i> (N = 44226)	<i>Other</i> (N = 51019)
ACCOUNTING	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.3
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
ARABIC	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
ARCHAEOLOGY	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
ART & DESIGN	6.9	7.8	14.7	14.8	18.2
BENGALI	0.0	.	0.0	0.0	0.0
BIBLICAL HEBREW	0.0	0.0	0.0	.	.
BIOLOGY	30.7	23.2	18.4	14.2	17.9
BUSINESS STUDIES	5.1	7.1	12.9	12.5	9.9
CHEMISTRY	33.5	22.4	11.9	9.0	11.8
CHINESE	1.7	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	1.8	1.8	0.9	0.8	1.2
CLASSICAL GREEK	0.3	0.2	0.0	.	0.0
CLASSICS	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.1	0.7
COMPUTING	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.9
CRITICAL THINKING	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
DANCE	0.2	0.2	0.6	1.1	1.0
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	2.7	3.4	7.6	6.6	7.0
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	3.1	4.9	5.3	6.0	6.3
DUTCH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
ECONOMICS	13.2	13.9	6.6	4.7	5.3
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6
ELECTRONICS	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	4.7	5.4	9.8	9.1	8.7
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	3.1	4.5	6.5	7.6	6.6
ENGLISH LITERATURE	19.5	22.6	15.5	15.6	17.4
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5
FILM STUDIES	0.5	1.1	2.6	3.4	2.7
FOOD STUDIES	0.0	.	0.0	0.0	.
FRENCH	8.8	7.5	2.8	2.0	3.3
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	13.2	9.3	1.2	0.7	1.4
GENERAL STUDIES	16.8	16.4	16.4	11.2	12.0
GEOGRAPHY	13.1	13.9	11.5	7.1	10.0
GEOLOGY	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.5
GERMAN	3.0	2.4	1.1	0.9	1.3
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	7.3	8.1	4.3	3.4	4.4
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.7
GREEK	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University Mission Group</i>				
	<i>Russell Group</i> (N = 61514)	<i>1994 Group</i> (N = 32340)	<i>University Alliance</i> (N = 63027)	<i>Million+ Group</i> (N = 44226)	<i>Other</i> (N = 51019)
GUJARATI	0.0	.	0.0	0.0	.
HINDI	0.0	.	.	.	.
HISTORY	22.4	24.5	16.4	12.7	16.0
HISTORY OF ART	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3
HOME ECONOMICS	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.6
HUMAN BIOLOGY	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7
ICT	1.7	1.8	4.4	4.7	4.6
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
ISLAMIC STUDIES	.	.	.	0.0	.
ITALIAN	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
JAPANESE	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
LATIN	1.4	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
LAW	2.5	3.6	6.1	6.7	4.4
MARINE SCIENCE	.	.	0.0	0.0	0.0
MATHEMATICS	50.9	43.3	20.9	15.7	19.4
MEDIA STUDIES	1.8	3.4	10.2	13.6	10.6
MODERN HEBREW	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MUSIC	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.8	3.4
PANJABI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
PERFORMANCE ARTS	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.3	1.4
PERSIAN	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
PHILOSOPHY	1.4	1.8	0.8	0.9	1.0
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2.6	4.3	7.9	7.8	7.3
PHYSICS	23.9	18.8	8.2	5.1	6.8
POLISH	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
PORTUGUESE	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
PSYCHOLOGY	11.8	16.2	22.4	23.9	18.8
PURE MATHEMATICS	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.5	8.5
RUSSIAN	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
SANSKRIT	.	0.0	.	.	0.0
SCIENCE	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
SOCIOLOGY	4.6	6.6	11.5	15.2	10.8
SPANISH	4.5	3.9	1.8	1.6	2.0
STATISTICS	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
TAMIL	.	0.0	.	.	0.0
TURKISH	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
URDU	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
USE OF MATHEMATICS	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Table 4(a): Uptake of A level subjects, by degree subject area to which applicants were accepted ~ Group 1

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>			
	<i>Subjects allied to Medicine</i>	<i>Biological Sciences</i>	<i>Medicine & Dentistry</i>	<i>Veterinary Science, Agriculture & Related subjects</i>
ACCOUNTING	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
ARABIC	0.3	0.1	0.2	.
ARCHAEOLOGY	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2
ART & DESIGN	4.4	5.9	1.6	8.5
BENGALI	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
BIBLICAL HEBREW	.	0.0	.	.
BIOLOGY	66.6	48.9	94.7	64.8
BUSINESS STUDIES	3.0	5.3	0.4	7.3
CHEMISTRY	52.0	28.6	98.2	43.4
CHINESE	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.2
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.7
CLASSICAL GREEK	.	0.0	0.1	0.2
CLASSICS	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	0.4	0.4	.	0.2
COMPUTING	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
CRITICAL THINKING	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.5
DANCE	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	2.3	2.2	0.2	8.5
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	2.0	2.9	0.2	2.2
DUTCH	0.1	0.0	0.0	.
ECONOMICS	1.9	2.6	2.6	1.8
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6
ELECTRONICS	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	4.3	6.0	0.6	3.6
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	3.0	4.5	0.5	2.7
ENGLISH LITERATURE	8.0	12.5	4.7	8.5
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.3	0.8	0.0	3.2
FILM STUDIES	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.8
FOOD STUDIES	0.0	.	.	0.0
FRENCH	2.3	2.6	5.4	1.6
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	0.9	1.0	5.1	1.4
GENERAL STUDIES	13.9	16.7	18.6	15.7
GEOGRAPHY	7.2	10.4	6.3	21.2
GEOLOGY	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.1
GERMAN	0.9	1.1	1.7	0.8
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	1.0	1.6	0.4	1.0
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	0.1	0.1	.	0.1
GREEK	0.1	0.1	0.1	.
GUJARATI	0.0	.	.	.
HINDI	.	.	.	.

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>			
	<i>Subjects allied to Medicine</i>	<i>Biological Sciences</i>	<i>Medicine & Dentistry</i>	<i>Veterinary Science, Agriculture & Related subjects</i>
HISTORY	7.2	11.5	5.9	8.4
HISTORY OF ART	0.0	0.1	.	0.3
HOME ECONOMICS	1.2	0.2	0.2	1.5
HUMAN BIOLOGY	3.0	2.0	0.9	0.8
ICT	2.1	2.2	0.4	2.2
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
ISLAMIC STUDIES	.	.	.	.
ITALIAN	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
JAPANESE	0.0	0.0	.	0.0
LATIN	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.3
LAW	1.8	3.3	0.2	1.3
MARINE SCIENCE	.	0.0	.	.
MATHEMATICS	33.2	23.6	68.8	27.7
MEDIA STUDIES	2.2	4.0	0.0	2.0
MODERN HEBREW	0.0	0.0	.	.
MUSIC	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.6
PANJABI	0.1	0.0	.	.
PERFORMANCE ARTS	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3
PERSIAN	0.1	0.0	0.1	.
PHILOSOPHY	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.3
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	7.3	18.3	1.1	6.6
PHYSICS	7.9	5.5	21.6	11.7
POLISH	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
PORTUGUESE	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
PSYCHOLOGY	25.3	49.5	5.7	15.2
PURE MATHEMATICS	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	6.0	6.9	2.7	4.5
RUSSIAN	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0
SANSKRIT	.	.	.	.
SCIENCE	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
SOCIOLOGY	9.7	11.2	0.5	4.0
SPANISH	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.0
STATISTICS	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
TAMIL	.	0.0	.	.
TURKISH	0.1	0.2	0.1	.
URDU	0.2	0.1	0.1	.
USE OF MATHEMATICS	0.1	0.1	.	0.2
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.2	0.1	.	0.0
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.0	0.1	.	0.1

Table 4(b): Uptake of A level subjects, by degree subject area to which applicants were accepted ~ Group 2

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>				
	<i>Architecture, Building and Planning</i>	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Mathematics & Computer Science</i>	<i>Physical Sciences</i>	<i>Technologies</i>
ACCOUNTING	1.0	0.6	2.3	0.2	0.2
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3
ARABIC	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.0	.
ARCHAEOLOGY	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	.
ART & DESIGN	45.8	4.7	5.0	3.7	10.4
BENGALI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
BIBLICAL HEBREW	.	.	.	.	.
BIOLOGY	9.0	13.4	11.4	37.4	17.7
BUSINESS STUDIES	11.2	4.3	9.3	2.9	6.6
CHEMISTRY	6.9	36.2	19.1	50.3	20.1
CHINESE	1.5	1.8	2.2	0.6	0.6
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.5
CLASSICAL GREEK	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
CLASSICS	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
COMPUTING	0.8	2.9	11.5	1.2	2.5
CRITICAL THINKING	0.3	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.2
DANCE	0.1	.	0.1	0.1	.
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	24.3	16.0	4.3	2.5	11.1
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	1.4	0.4	1.0	1.0	3.9
DUTCH	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	.
ECONOMICS	7.5	6.3	10.0	4.4	3.3
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.4
ELECTRONICS	0.2	3.5	1.2	0.4	2.2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	3.8	0.9	2.4	2.1	4.6
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	2.7	0.6	1.6	1.7	3.9
ENGLISH LITERATURE	7.9	1.6	4.2	5.8	6.8
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.9	0.4
FILM STUDIES	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.3	2.5
FOOD STUDIES	.	.	.	0.0	.
FRENCH	1.7	1.6	2.4	2.4	1.2
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	3.9	19.0	30.9	11.0	3.7
GENERAL STUDIES	12.9	11.2	11.9	18.7	12.1
GEOGRAPHY	18.8	7.3	5.5	35.8	8.2
GEOLOGY	0.8	0.5	0.3	5.5	1.1
GERMAN	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.9
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	3.2	0.7	1.6	1.5	1.8
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4
GREEK	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	.
GUJARATI	.	0.0	.	.	.

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>				
	<i>Architecture, Building and Planning</i>	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Mathematics & Computer Science</i>	<i>Physical Sciences</i>	<i>Technologies</i>
HINDI	.	.	.	.	.
HISTORY	10.1	3.6	7.4	8.9	7.9
HISTORY OF ART	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
HOME ECONOMICS	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
HUMAN BIOLOGY	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5
ICT	4.6	3.3	12.4	1.8	5.4
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	.
ISLAMIC STUDIES	.	.	.	.	.
ITALIAN	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
JAPANESE	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	.
LATIN	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	.
LAW	2.6	0.6	1.6	1.3	1.5
MARINE SCIENCE	.	.	.	.	.
MATHEMATICS	42.8	85.0	68.2	56.2	35.9
MEDIA STUDIES	4.1	1.2	5.5	1.2	11.1
MODERN HEBREW	.	.	0.0	.	.
MUSIC	1.3	1.8	2.1	1.8	39.1
PANJABI	.	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
PERFORMANCE ARTS	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.5
PERSIAN	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
PHILOSOPHY	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	6.2	2.4	2.2	3.3	4.2
PHYSICS	20.8	72.7	32.4	40.1	26.3
POLISH	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
PORTUGUESE	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	.
PSYCHOLOGY	7.3	2.7	7.1	8.5	7.5
PURE MATHEMATICS	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.1	.
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	4.6	1.0	2.9	2.9	3.9
RUSSIAN	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
SANSKRIT	.	.	.	.	.
SCIENCE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	.
SOCIOLOGY	4.0	0.9	3.1	2.2	3.3
SPANISH	1.8	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.8
STATISTICS	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.1
TAMIL	.	.	.	.	.
TURKISH	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	.
URDU	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	.
USE OF MATHEMATICS	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	.
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1

Table 4(c): Uptake of A level subjects, by degree subject area to which applicants were accepted ~ Group 3

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>				
	<i>Business & Administrative Studies</i>	<i>Mass Communications & Documentation</i>	<i>Creative Arts & Design</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>
ACCOUNTING	7.9	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.3
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
ARABIC	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
ARCHAEOLOGY	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
ART & DESIGN	7.8	16.5	55.8	13.4	5.5
BENGALI	0.0	.	.	0.0	0.0
BIBLICAL HEBREW	0.0	.	.	.	0.0
BIOLOGY	7.8	2.2	4.5	9.3	9.3
BUSINESS STUDIES	38.0	8.8	5.1	6.7	9.1
CHEMISTRY	4.8	0.6	1.6	2.7	5.5
CHINESE	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.0
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1
CLASSICAL GREEK	0.0	.	0.0	.	0.0
CLASSICS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	0.7	2.4	0.6	1.1	0.8
COMPUTING	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4
CRITICAL THINKING	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6
DANCE	0.4	0.4	3.2	1.3	0.2
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	5.0	3.6	17.0	5.4	2.1
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	3.2	11.0	18.0	7.8	3.0
DUTCH	0.1	0.0	0.0	.	0.0
ECONOMICS	17.9	2.3	1.3	1.1	32.0
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	2.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.3
ELECTRONICS	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	6.8	22.6	8.6	16.9	6.5
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	4.2	14.5	7.3	10.1	5.1
ENGLISH LITERATURE	9.6	26.0	21.2	20.9	17.1
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
FILM STUDIES	1.2	14.4	6.0	1.4	1.0
FOOD STUDIES	0.0	.	.	.	.
FRENCH	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.9	4.3
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	2.7	0.2	0.4	0.4	4.7
GENERAL STUDIES	13.0	12.8	11.2	16.5	14.4
GEOGRAPHY	10.4	5.2	5.3	9.6	21.9
GEOLOGY	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
GERMAN	1.2	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.4
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	4.0	3.8	1.4	1.6	20.0
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	0.2	0.6	2.3	0.2	0.1
GREEK	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
GUJARATI	0.0	.	0.0	.	0.0
HINDI	.	.	.	.	.

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>				
	<i>Business & Administrative Studies</i>	<i>Mass Communications & Documentation</i>	<i>Creative Arts & Design</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>
HISTORY	11.2	15.0	9.6	15.1	25.7
HISTORY OF ART	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.3
HOME ECONOMICS	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.2
HUMAN BIOLOGY	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.3
ICT	6.6	3.6	2.7	4.6	2.2
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
ISLAMIC STUDIES	.	.	.	.	.
ITALIAN	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
JAPANESE	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
LATIN	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
LAW	5.0	3.3	1.1	3.8	4.7
MARINE SCIENCE	.	.	.	0.0	.
MATHEMATICS	27.3	4.3	8.4	9.5	29.4
MEDIA STUDIES	9.5	53.3	17.1	8.4	4.8
MODERN HEBREW	0.0	0.0	0.0	.	0.0
MUSIC	1.0	2.1	11.4	2.6	1.1
PANJABI	0.0	.	0.0	0.1	0.0
PERFORMANCE ARTS	0.6	1.8	3.7	1.7	0.4
PERSIAN	0.1	.	0.0	.	0.0
PHILOSOPHY	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.4	1.5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	7.8	4.0	1.9	10.1	3.3
PHYSICS	4.5	0.9	2.4	1.4	6.0
POLISH	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
PORTUGUESE	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
PSYCHOLOGY	15.1	14.6	11.3	30.3	17.5
PURE MATHEMATICS	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	5.4	6.7	5.2	12.9	10.1
RUSSIAN	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5
SANSKRIT	.	.	.	.	.
SCIENCE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
SOCIOLOGY	9.5	12.7	5.4	20.9	22.0
SPANISH	2.4	1.2	1.3	1.5	2.4
STATISTICS	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
TAMIL	.	.	.	.	.
TURKISH	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
URDU	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
USE OF MATHEMATICS	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.0
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6

Table 4(d): Uptake of A level subjects, by degree subject area to which applicants were accepted ~ Group 4

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>				
	<i>European Languages, Literature & related</i>	<i>History & Philosophical studies</i>	<i>Law</i>	<i>Linguistics, Classics & related</i>	<i>Non-European Languages & related</i>
ACCOUNTING	0.1	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.2
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.2	1.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
ARABIC	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	.
ARCHAEOLOGY	.	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.4
ART & DESIGN	6.0	9.4	3.9	11.8	9.6
BENGALI	.	.	0.0	.	.
BIBLICAL HEBREW	.	.	.	.	.
BIOLOGY	8.7	9.6	9.8	8.1	10.0
BUSINESS STUDIES	3.2	3.7	10.1	3.1	4.0
CHEMISTRY	4.8	3.7	5.8	2.8	5.2
CHINESE	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.6
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.1
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	1.4	6.0	1.1	6.0	3.1
CLASSICAL GREEK	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.6	0.2
CLASSICS	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.4
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.5
COMPUTING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
CRITICAL THINKING	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.6
DANCE	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	0.9	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.3
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	3.7	4.7	3.0	8.3	6.2
DUTCH	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	.
ECONOMICS	5.4	6.9	9.8	2.8	6.5
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4
ELECTRONICS	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	7.1	7.3	11.0	23.3	9.0
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	4.5	6.2	8.8	15.5	6.6
ENGLISH LITERATURE	29.4	37.3	26.7	66.2	38.5
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5
FILM STUDIES	0.4	1.5	0.7	2.6	3.0
FOOD STUDIES	.	.	.	.	.
FRENCH	68.8	5.5	5.1	8.4	29.5
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.3
GENERAL STUDIES	19.7	18.5	16.4	16.9	18.8
GEOGRAPHY	6.9	10.2	7.4	7.1	8.6
GEOLOGY	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3
GERMAN	24.3	1.6	1.6	2.4	10.3
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	5.5	13.4	12.5	6.9	13.6
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
GREEK	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1
GUJARATI	.	.	0.0	.	.

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>				
	<i>European Languages, Literature & related</i>	<i>History & Philosophical studies</i>	<i>Law</i>	<i>Linguistics, Classics & related</i>	<i>Non-European Languages & related</i>
HINDI	.	.	0.0	.	.
HISTORY	22.0	76.4	33.0	35.4	41.8
HISTORY OF ART	0.8	2.8	0.1	0.4	0.7
HOME ECONOMICS	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	.
HUMAN BIOLOGY	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
ICT	1.0	1.2	2.9	1.4	0.6
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	.
ISLAMIC STUDIES	.	.	.	.	.
ITALIAN	4.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.3
JAPANESE	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
LATIN	2.8	1.4	0.5	4.8	2.8
LAW	1.8	4.0	37.0	3.8	2.7
MARINE SCIENCE	.	.	.	.	.
MATHEMATICS	18.2	12.9	16.1	9.1	14.1
MEDIA STUDIES	1.4	3.5	4.6	8.9	5.4
MODERN HEBREW	.	0.0	.	0.0	.
MUSIC	3.4	2.3	1.0	2.8	3.3
PANJABI	.	.	0.1	.	.
PERFORMANCE ARTS	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.1
PERSIAN	0.0	0.0	0.1	.	.
PHILOSOPHY	1.0	4.8	1.6	2.7	2.8
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.4	2.5	2.9	1.5	2.7
PHYSICS	2.0	3.1	2.9	1.1	2.7
POLISH	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
PORTUGUESE	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
PSYCHOLOGY	8.9	13.3	26.8	18.3	12.0
PURE MATHEMATICS	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	.
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	6.4	26.3	11.4	12.3	8.4
RUSSIAN	2.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6
SANSKRIT	.	.	.	0.0	.
SCIENCE	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
SOCIOLOGY	2.7	7.8	19.1	9.2	8.0
SPANISH	43.6	2.0	2.8	3.3	21.1
STATISTICS	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
TAMIL	.	.	.	.	.
TURKISH	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	.
URDU	.	0.0	0.3	0.1	.
USE OF MATHEMATICS	.	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4

Table 4(e): Uptake of A level subjects, by degree subject area to which applicants were accepted ~ Group 5

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>					
	<i>Combined Arts</i>	<i>Combined Sciences</i>	<i>Combined Social Sciences</i>	<i>Sciences combined with social sciences or arts</i>	<i>Social sciences combined with arts</i>	<i>General, other combined & unknown</i>
ACCOUNTING	0.1	0.5	3.3	1.1	0.5	0.7
ANCIENT HISTORY	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	.
ARABIC	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
ARCHAEOLOGY	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
ART & DESIGN	16.5	5.5	4.4	13.8	13.2	4.9
BENGALI	.	.	.	0.0	.	0.0
BIBLICAL HEBREW	.	.	.	.	.	0.0
BIOLOGY	5.7	46.3	7.6	13.4	6.8	40.0
BUSINESS STUDIES	3.2	5.1	19.1	11.9	10.8	3.2
CHEMISTRY	1.7	35.2	4.6	6.7	3.0	49.6
CHINESE	0.1	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.4
CITIZENSHIP STUDIES	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	3.0	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.6	1.0
CLASSICAL GREEK	0.1	0.0	.	.	0.0	0.1
CLASSICS	0.2	.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
COMMUNICATION & CULTURE	1.0	0.3	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.3
COMPUTING	0.3	1.6	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.8
CRITICAL THINKING	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.0
DANCE	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.2
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	2.5	6.4	2.2	8.9	5.3	1.6
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	15.0	1.4	3.5	3.4	5.0	1.9
DUTCH	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
ECONOMICS	1.8	3.0	30.0	8.2	11.5	6.9
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS	0.2	0.3	1.6	0.8	1.2	0.3
ELECTRONICS	.	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	17.1	3.1	6.9	7.6	10.1	4.2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	15.4	2.5	5.5	5.2	6.9	3.0
ENGLISH LITERATURE	48.4	6.4	14.3	11.8	25.2	12.0
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5
FILM STUDIES	7.0	0.5	1.3	2.1	2.3	0.8
FOOD STUDIES	.	0.0	.	.	.	.
FRENCH	12.6	1.9	2.5	2.5	10.5	6.4
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	0.2	7.1	2.6	5.1	0.9	21.2
GENERAL STUDIES	15.8	12.7	13.4	14.5	15.9	14.3
GEOGRAPHY	5.4	12.0	11.0	13.3	10.1	8.2
GEOLOGY	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.8
GERMAN	3.8	1.1	0.7	1.2	3.5	2.2
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	4.9	1.1	8.2	2.3	19.5	3.0
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.1
GREEK	0.1	0.1	.	0.1	0.1	0.1
GUJARATI	.	.	.	.	.	.
HINDI	.	.	.	.	.	.

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Degree subject area</i>					
	<i>Combined Arts</i>	<i>Combined Sciences</i>	<i>Combined Social Sciences</i>	<i>Sciences combined with social sciences or arts</i>	<i>Social sciences combined with arts</i>	<i>General, other combined & unknown</i>
HISTORY	33.9	6.4	17.6	12.2	38.7	10.7
HISTORY OF ART	0.8	0.0	.	0.2	0.3	0.5
HOME ECONOMICS	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0
HUMAN BIOLOGY	0.4	2.1	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.8
ICT	1.6	4.1	3.4	5.8	1.8	1.8
IRISH NEW SPECIFICATION	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
ISLAMIC STUDIES	.	.	.	.	.	0.0
ITALIAN	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
JAPANESE	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
LATIN	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.9
LAW	2.6	1.7	13.3	3.9	4.0	1.9
MARINE SCIENCE	.	0.0	.	.	.	.
MATHEMATICS	6.5	42.2	25.9	24.1	13.5	53.0
MEDIA STUDIES	16.7	3.1	6.8	9.8	12.8	3.5
MODERN HEBREW	0.0	0.0	0.0	.	0.0	.
MUSIC	3.9	2.2	0.7	4.0	1.6	1.8
PANJABI	.	.	0.1	0.0	0.0	.
PERFORMANCE ARTS	2.1	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.3
PERSIAN	.	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	.
PHILOSOPHY	2.9	0.3	1.1	1.0	2.2	1.1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.8	19.5	4.5	17.4	3.0	2.3
PHYSICS	1.3	22.2	4.4	7.2	2.4	33.2
POLISH	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
PORTUGUESE	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
PSYCHOLOGY	15.5	18.3	23.4	26.5	15.2	13.0
PURE MATHEMATICS	.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	12.8	3.3	8.8	6.5	12.2	5.1
RUSSIAN	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
SANSKRIT	.	.	.	.	.	.
SCIENCE	0.1	.	0.1	0.1	0.0	.
SOCIOLOGY	8.1	5.3	31.5	11.1	14.2	5.1
SPANISH	6.7	0.9	1.4	1.5	6.4	3.3
STATISTICS	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5
TAMIL	.	0.0	.	.	.	.
TURKISH	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	.
URDU	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
USE OF MATHEMATICS	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	.
WELSH FIRST LANGUAGE	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
WORLD DEVELOPMENT	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0

3.1.2 Performance

This section of the report focuses on performance in the most popular A level subjects among university applicants overall and broken down by university mission group.

Tables 5 and 6 show the percentages of students achieving particular grades (A* and at least grades A, B and C) in each A level subject, as a percentage of those taking the A level subject. Only A level subjects with an overall uptake level of more than 1% were included in the analyses. Subjects were ordered by overall uptake (highest first).

In particular, Table 5 shows that top grades were more frequent among accepted applicants than among rejected applicants. For example, among the accepted applicants for undergraduate courses with an A level in Mathematics, 20.7% had an A* and 51.6% had at least grade A. This compares with 14.3% and 36.4% among rejected applicants.

Tables 7 to 10 show, respectively, the percentages achieving grade A*, at least grade A, at least grade B, and at least grade C in each A level subject, by university mission group. As above, only A level subjects with an overall uptake level of more than 1% were included in these tables.

As an example, Table 8 shows that there were more candidates with at least grade A in A level Mathematics in universities of the Russell Group and 1994 Group (79.8% and 65.9%, respectively) than in universities in any of the other mission groups (13.2% in universities of the University Alliance and 7.2% in universities of the Million+ Group).

Table 5: Percentages of students achieving *grade A** and *at least grade A* in each A level subject

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>Grade A*</i>		<i>At least grade A</i>		<i>Number of candidates with the A Level</i>	
	<i>Accepted candidates</i>	<i>Rejected candidates</i>	<i>Accepted candidates</i>	<i>Rejected candidates</i>	<i>Accepted candidates</i>	<i>Rejected candidates</i>
MATHEMATICS	20.7	14.3	51.6	36.4	75800	13952
BIOLOGY	10.5	7.1	34.1	25.2	53848	11267
PSYCHOLOGY	5.7	1.9	23.2	8.8	47253	8627
HISTORY	11.3	8.0	40.2	29.2	45630	9637
CHEMISTRY	8.6	5.0	32.4	17.6	46247	6862
ENGLISH LITERATURE	12.7	7.1	34.1	19.0	45225	7589
GENERAL STUDIES	5.1	2.7	15.4	8.5	37404	4456
ART & DESIGN	17.7	11.8	38.6	26.8	32264	7268
PHYSICS	13.1	9.8	39.8	25.2	31845	5906
GEOGRAPHY	8.8	4.0	36.0	18.3	28300	4121
SOCIOLOGY	6.6	1.6	25.2	9.2	24730	5007
BUSINESS STUDIES	5.2	3.0	21.9	11.3	24468	4876
ECONOMICS	10.6	9.0	42.2	27.9	21722	4218
MEDIA STUDIES	2.1	0.8	15.8	6.4	20269	4377
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	2.6	1.1	17.3	5.9	19505	3500
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	7.0	4.0	32.3	18.9	19478	3487
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	5.9	2.1	20.5	7.7	15368	3352
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	7.4	3.5	23.6	11.6	14175	2919
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	4.9	1.8	20.1	8.2	14316	2634
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	5.2	3.9	22.5	17.2	12819	3304
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	10.4	5.5	37.9	19.8	13646	1953
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	28.8	15.1	61.1	37.1	12922	1688
FRENCH	6.3	2.8	24.1	9.6	11908	2059
LAW	8.8	6.2	44.2	28.7	12241	1692
ICT	3.1	1.5	15.9	6.9	8959	1941
MUSIC	5.0	3.3	22.0	15.7	7240	1468
SPANISH	10.4	9.0	43.2	28.9	6974	1050
FILM STUDIES	3.4	1.1	18.4	7.5	5207	1126
GERMAN	8.7	10.8	41.7	36.5	4383	622
ACCOUNTING	7.9	10.6	26.2	24.4	3526	1089
COMPUTING	5.3	1.4	21.9	8.1	3284	518
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	6.9	3.7	32.8	17.1	3255	491
PHILOSOPHY	3.9	3.2	26.0	14.8	2864	438

Table 6: Percentages of students achieving *at least grade B* and *at least grade C* in each A level subject

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>At least grade B</i>		<i>At least grade C</i>		<i>Number of candidates with the A Level</i>	
	<i>Accepted candidates</i>	<i>Rejected candidates</i>	<i>Accepted candidates</i>	<i>Rejected candidates</i>	<i>Accepted candidates</i>	<i>Rejected candidates</i>
MATHEMATICS	74.2	57.0	88.4	75.1	75800	13952
BIOLOGY	59.8	45.0	80.8	65.7	53848	11267
PSYCHOLOGY	52.4	26.7	79.4	54.4	47253	8627
HISTORY	66.5	51.1	84.2	71.6	45630	9637
CHEMISTRY	63.8	41.6	87.9	69.4	46247	6862
ENGLISH LITERATURE	62.8	40.2	86.8	67.4	45225	7589
GENERAL STUDIES	36.8	24.4	63.5	48.1	37404	4456
ART & DESIGN	67.2	51.9	88.4	77.4	32264	7268
PHYSICS	64.0	44.3	81.7	65.5	31845	5906
GEOGRAPHY	66.4	41.1	88.7	68.6	28300	4121
SOCIOLOGY	56.4	27.4	83.4	58.1	24730	5007
BUSINESS STUDIES	53.3	32.1	82.0	61.3	24468	4876
ECONOMICS	71.6	52.8	89.5	76.6	21722	4218
MEDIA STUDIES	52.9	29.7	86.6	69.6	20269	4377
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	50.2	24.2	85.1	60.3	19505	3500
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	65.2	44.3	87.5	71.3	19478	3487
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	47.1	24.1	74.4	50.7	15368	3352
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	53.8	33.5	81.1	61.6	14175	2919
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	52.1	28.5	84.0	62.8	14316	2634
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	57.3	45.4	86.8	75.1	12819	3304
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	68.7	44.4	88.5	70.8	13646	1953
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	82.2	60.8	92.4	78.3	12922	1688
FRENCH	52.1	26.0	77.8	51.8	11908	2059
LAW	73.9	57.4	90.5	78.9	12241	1692
ICT	42.9	22.7	71.7	49.2	8959	1941
MUSIC	50.6	34.9	76.9	63.5	7240	1468
SPANISH	72.6	51.9	89.5	77.2	6974	1050
FILM STUDIES	59.3	38.9	91.8	78.3	5207	1126
GERMAN	70.2	56.8	89.7	78.3	4383	622
ACCOUNTING	50.7	41.1	74.2	63.0	3526	1089
COMPUTING	48.0	22.6	73.7	49.6	3284	518
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	66.4	45.4	88.7	76.0	3255	491
PHILOSOPHY	58.7	38.1	82.5	64.8	2864	438

Table 7: Percentages achieving *grade A** in each A level subject, by university mission group

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University Mission Group</i>				
	<i>Russell Group</i>	<i>1994 Group</i>	<i>University Alliance</i>	<i>Million+ Group</i>	<i>Other</i>
MATHEMATICS	36.7	23.1	1.9	0.9	5.9
BIOLOGY	23.3	10.9	0.6	0.2	4.0
PSYCHOLOGY	18.5	14.5	1.9	1.0	2.2
HISTORY	20.2	12.2	0.9	0.3	1.4
CHEMISTRY	20.5	9.4	0.4	0.3	3.5
ENGLISH LITERATURE	29.5	21.6	2.6	1.1	3.1
GENERAL STUDIES	11.1	8.9	1.1	0.9	1.8
ART & DESIGN	38.3	31.8	12.5	8.8	16.3
PHYSICS	23.7	9.8	0.4	0.1	2.0
GEOGRAPHY	18.9	15.4	1.6	0.7	2.2
SOCIOLOGY	24.1	21.0	3.1	1.3	3.2
BUSINESS STUDIES	16.8	13.2	2.8	0.9	3.0
ECONOMICS	20.3	12.0	1.0	0.3	2.3
MEDIA STUDIES	10.5	8.4	1.6	0.6	1.6
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	10.1	7.8	0.7	0.2	0.5
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	16.8	12.4	1.4	0.4	2.2
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	20.5	19.7	2.8	1.3	3.1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	18.2	13.7	2.0	0.6	1.9
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	21.2	18.3	4.1	3.1	5.8
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	21.6	13.6	1.5	0.5	1.9
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	38.7	17.5	1.1	0.3	5.5
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	18.0	11.4	1.8	1.2	1.9
FRENCH	15.0	8.6	0.9	0.6	2.2
LAW	21.9	17.1	2.9	0.9	3.2
ICT	13.3	8.1	1.4	0.4	1.8
MUSIC	13.7	7.0	1.0	0.7	1.3
SPANISH	16.6	14.5	2.6	1.8	3.5
FILM STUDIES	23.6	13.4	1.6	0.6	1.6
GERMAN	13.4	11.1	2.3	2.8	3.3
ACCOUNTING	25.2	12.8	1.2	0.3	4.0
COMPUTING	18.0	8.4	0.1	0.2	1.4
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	14.2	8.9	1.3	0.5	1.2
PHILOSOPHY	9.4	4.0	0.4	0.0	0.8

Table 8: Percentages achieving at least a grade A in each A level subject, by university mission group

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University Mission Group</i>				
	<i>Russell Group</i>	<i>1994 Group</i>	<i>University Alliance</i>	<i>Million+ Group</i>	<i>Other</i>
MATHEMATICS	79.8	65.9	13.2	7.2	25.8
BIOLOGY	66.0	45.1	5.6	2.5	18.3
PSYCHOLOGY	62.8	53.3	12.2	6.1	12.6
HISTORY	65.7	51.5	7.9	3.1	9.8
CHEMISTRY	65.5	43.2	4.1	2.3	21.2
ENGLISH LITERATURE	70.4	58.8	11.6	5.0	12.9
GENERAL STUDIES	31.8	26.5	4.8	3.0	6.7
ART & DESIGN	73.7	63.2	31.4	21.7	35.4
PHYSICS	64.9	42.0	2.8	1.7	11.1
GEOGRAPHY	69.2	61.4	11.4	6.2	15.4
SOCIOLOGY	71.3	65.2	17.4	8.5	17.0
BUSINESS STUDIES	62.7	51.9	14.5	4.9	14.0
ECONOMICS	70.3	56.5	9.4	3.3	16.3
MEDIA STUDIES	55.9	48.6	14.7	7.1	12.1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	55.0	47.1	8.1	3.4	6.9
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	65.7	57.9	12.6	6.0	16.1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	61.8	58.4	12.5	6.6	12.6
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	60.5	51.1	11.1	4.8	10.9
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	60.5	53.2	16.1	9.9	19.3
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	68.6	56.5	8.9	3.3	12.6
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	74.8	53.0	6.5	2.5	22.1
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	60.8	47.3	12.1	7.0	12.0
FRENCH	65.8	53.7	10.6	8.5	16.6
LAW	69.2	60.1	15.4	5.7	14.3
ICT	55.6	38.0	8.5	3.3	12.5
MUSIC	52.4	39.3	6.6	4.2	7.6
SPANISH	64.6	57.8	14.7	14.4	19.6
FILM STUDIES	66.7	57.8	14.8	7.1	14.6
GERMAN	59.9	52.0	15.0	20.4	20.0
ACCOUNTING	64.1	51.3	9.7	2.1	19.1
COMPUTING	61.8	36.0	4.9	4.1	9.1
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	62.0	47.5	8.9	4.0	7.7
PHILOSOPHY	53.1	36.6	4.6	2.3	7.4

Table 9: Percentages achieving *at least a grade B* in each A level subject, by university mission group

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University Mission Group</i>				
	<i>Russell Group</i>	<i>1994 Group</i>	<i>University Alliance</i>	<i>Million+ Group</i>	<i>Other</i>
MATHEMATICS	95.9	90.5	44.4	26.8	56.3
BIOLOGY	92.0	81.0	30.9	15.5	44.3
PSYCHOLOGY	91.6	87.4	45.9	27.4	41.4
HISTORY	94.8	88.9	43.2	21.8	43.2
CHEMISTRY	92.5	81.3	24.5	14.9	48.2
ENGLISH LITERATURE	95.3	90.6	46.2	25.1	44.5
GENERAL STUDIES	60.7	57.3	21.1	14.1	24.3
ART & DESIGN	94.7	89.4	64.1	49.8	64.3
PHYSICS	90.8	77.0	18.0	10.4	33.1
GEOGRAPHY	95.2	92.5	47.8	29.6	48.1
SOCIOLOGY	95.2	92.4	55.3	35.3	50.2
BUSINESS STUDIES	93.2	86.3	51.6	26.8	45.9
ECONOMICS	94.6	89.4	46.8	22.1	50.6
MEDIA STUDIES	92.1	89.6	57.6	37.5	49.2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	92.7	88.8	44.6	25.9	37.9
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	95.1	92.2	51.2	31.3	51.6
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	92.3	88.2	42.8	26.2	37.9
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	92.7	88.9	46.6	29.2	43.7
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	90.6	87.2	49.8	34.1	48.5
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	96.3	90.9	45.0	20.3	48.8
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	92.7	82.1	29.5	17.1	47.3
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	94.1	88.2	51.4	33.7	46.8
FRENCH	94.5	87.5	43.8	28.7	44.5
LAW	92.4	90.3	50.1	26.3	42.6
ICT	91.0	80.8	36.4	20.9	39.3
MUSIC	88.1	76.8	31.3	24.3	33.3
SPANISH	93.9	88.9	46.1	39.3	48.3
FILM STUDIES	95.8	94.0	63.7	43.9	54.3
GERMAN	91.3	85.0	40.5	38.0	44.7
ACCOUNTING	90.4	82.3	38.9	17.6	41.1
COMPUTING	90.4	78.2	31.2	18.1	31.3
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	92.5	88.9	48.9	25.4	40.6
PHILOSOPHY	88.7	82.2	35.8	16.6	36.5

Table 10: Percentages achieving *at least a grade C* in each A level subject, by university mission group

<i>A level subject</i>	<i>University Mission Group</i>				
	<i>Russell Group</i>	<i>1994 Group</i>	<i>University Alliance</i>	<i>Million+ Group</i>	<i>Other</i>
MATHEMATICS	99.0	97.7	75.9	57.5	80.2
BIOLOGY	98.3	95.2	68.4	46.5	72.5
PSYCHOLOGY	98.4	97.3	80.0	62.5	73.5
HISTORY	99.6	98.7	84.0	63.8	79.6
CHEMISTRY	98.6	95.4	63.3	44.2	75.1
ENGLISH LITERATURE	99.4	98.6	83.4	66.0	80.4
GENERAL STUDIES	83.2	81.3	52.3	40.3	53.3
ART & DESIGN	99.1	98.1	88.4	79.5	87.4
PHYSICS	97.7	93.9	53.6	35.7	65.2
GEOGRAPHY	99.4	98.8	85.0	69.6	80.2
SOCIOLOGY	99.0	98.4	85.8	71.9	80.6
BUSINESS STUDIES	98.8	96.2	84.8	65.6	78.7
ECONOMICS	99.0	98.0	82.4	59.9	81.3
MEDIA STUDIES	99.3	98.5	90.5	79.4	85.3
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	99.4	98.7	85.5	73.7	80.2
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	99.6	98.7	84.0	69.5	82.6
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	98.4	96.5	75.8	58.9	68.6
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	99.1	98.3	85.4	71.4	80.5
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	98.7	96.5	81.9	67.7	78.3
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	99.6	98.4	82.7	58.7	81.7
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	97.7	93.7	63.9	46.1	76.2
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	99.4	98.4	87.4	74.8	83.1
FRENCH	99.1	98.0	78.6	66.4	77.8
LAW	97.4	98.1	80.3	60.6	72.4
ICT	98.3	95.1	72.9	52.3	69.7
MUSIC	98.2	94.3	69.2	56.7	67.0
SPANISH	99.2	97.9	79.2	69.9	78.1
FILM STUDIES	98.6	98.6	94.4	87.0	90.6
GERMAN	98.7	96.7	78.4	73.0	78.7
ACCOUNTING	96.8	91.5	71.3	48.3	72.2
COMPUTING	97.8	94.9	66.8	51.7	61.4
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	99.2	98.5	85.5	66.9	77.0
PHILOSOPHY	98.3	96.3	75.6	51.3	70.8

3.2 A level facilitating subjects

A level subject choices can have an important role in determining the university courses and the universities open to students. Some university courses require a specific A level subject (or combinations of A level subjects) and others do not. However, there are some A level subjects that are required more often than others. These subjects are referred to as facilitating subjects (Russell Group, 2012⁷).

Subjects that can be viewed as facilitating subjects are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- English Literature
- History
- Geography
- Languages (Classical and Modern)⁸

The Russell Group recommends that students take at least two facilitating subjects at A level in order to keep most options for subject choice open.

Schools and colleges offer students a range of A level subjects (as listed, for example, in Table 2) but, unlike the facilitating subjects, they are unlikely to be required for any particular degree course and so choosing them does not increase students' options at university.

This section of the report focuses on facilitating subjects only, collating some results on this group of subjects from the previous tables.

⁷ Russell Group (2012). *Informed choices: A Russell Group Guide to make decisions about post-16 education*. The Russell Group, London.

⁸ Languages (classical and modern) included in this section of the report are French, German, Spanish, Latin and Classical Greek.

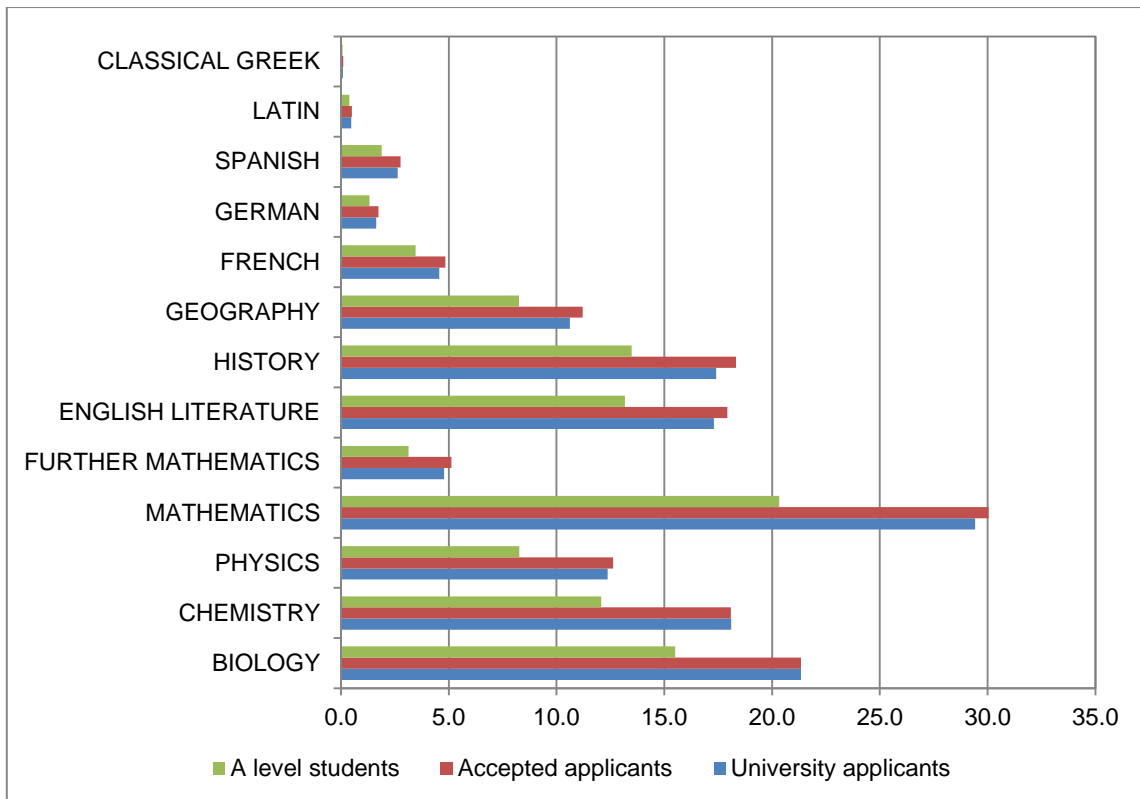


Figure 1: Uptake of A level facilitating subjects

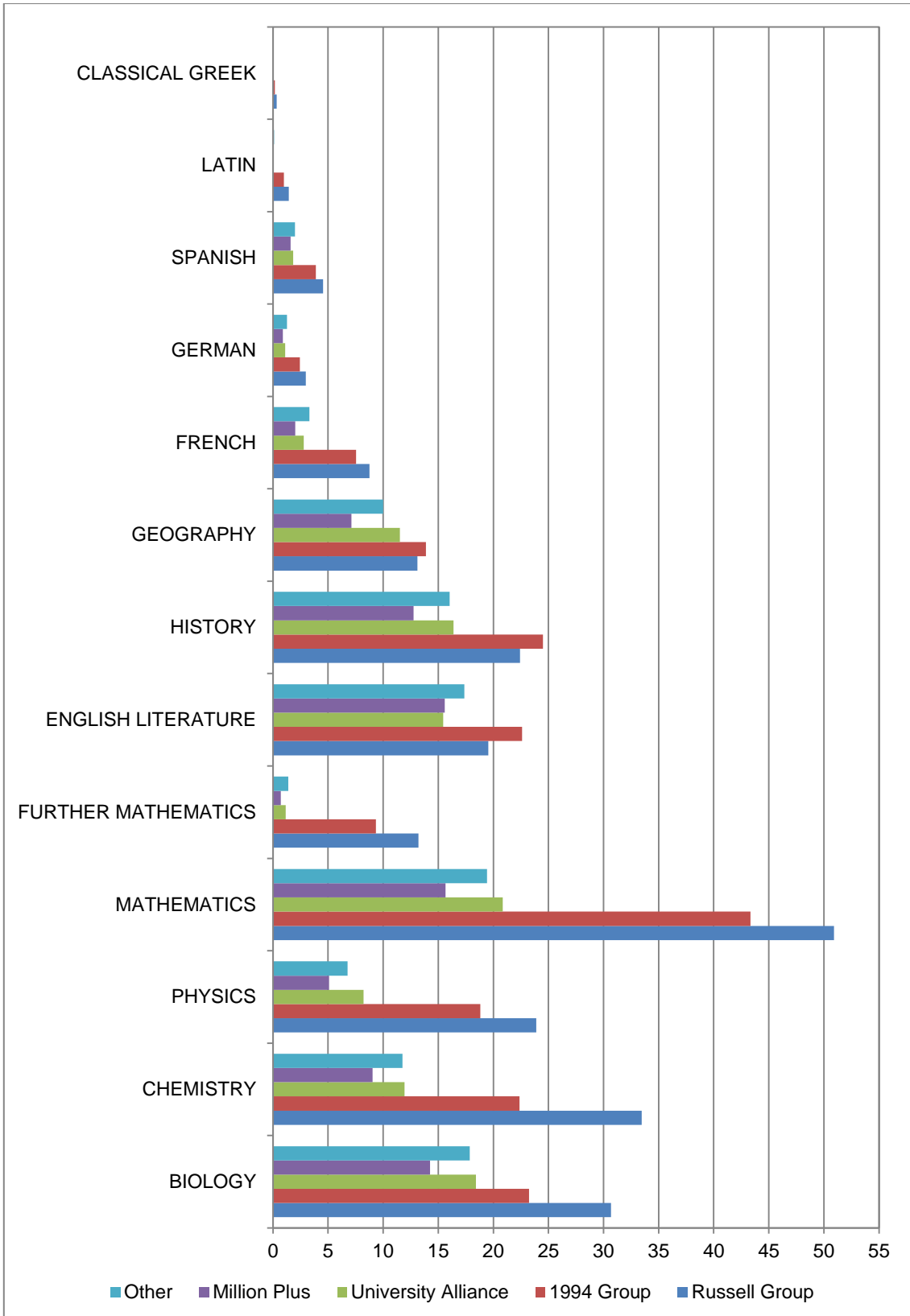


Figure 2: Uptake of A level facilitating subjects, by university mission group (accepted applicants)

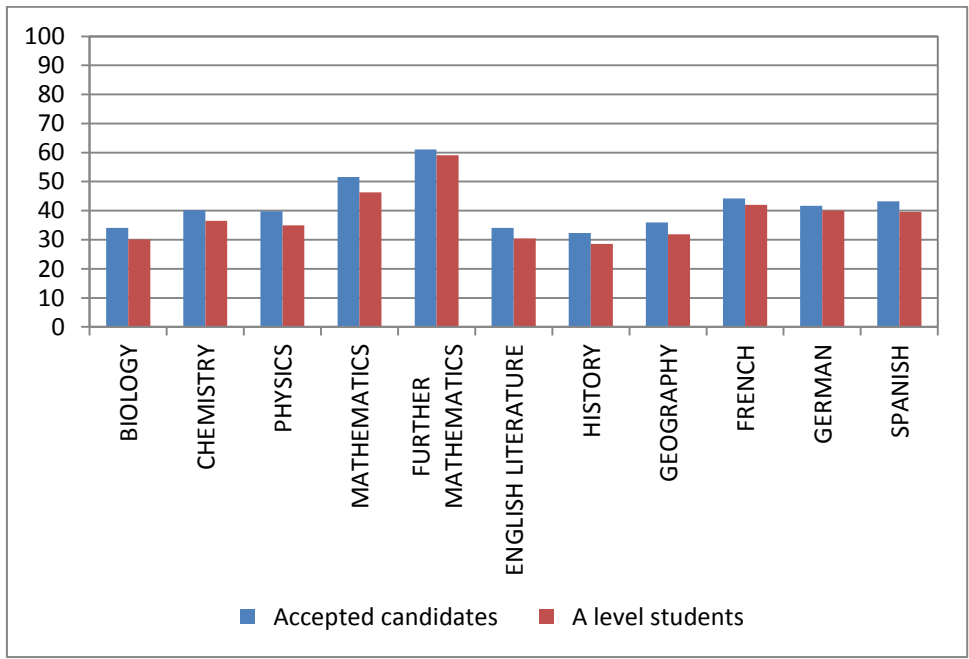


Figure 3: A level facilitating subjects ~ percentages achieving at least a grade A in each subject⁹

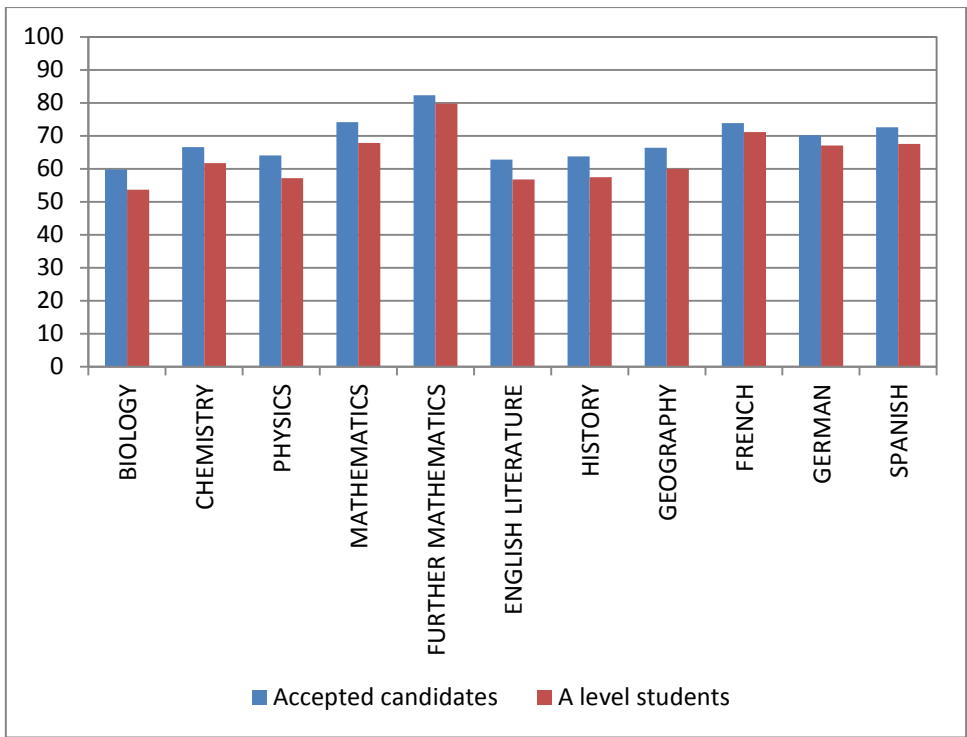


Figure 4: A level facilitating subjects ~ percentages achieving at least a grade B in each subject

⁹ Classical Greek and Latin were not included in the performance figures, as the overall uptake was less than 1%.

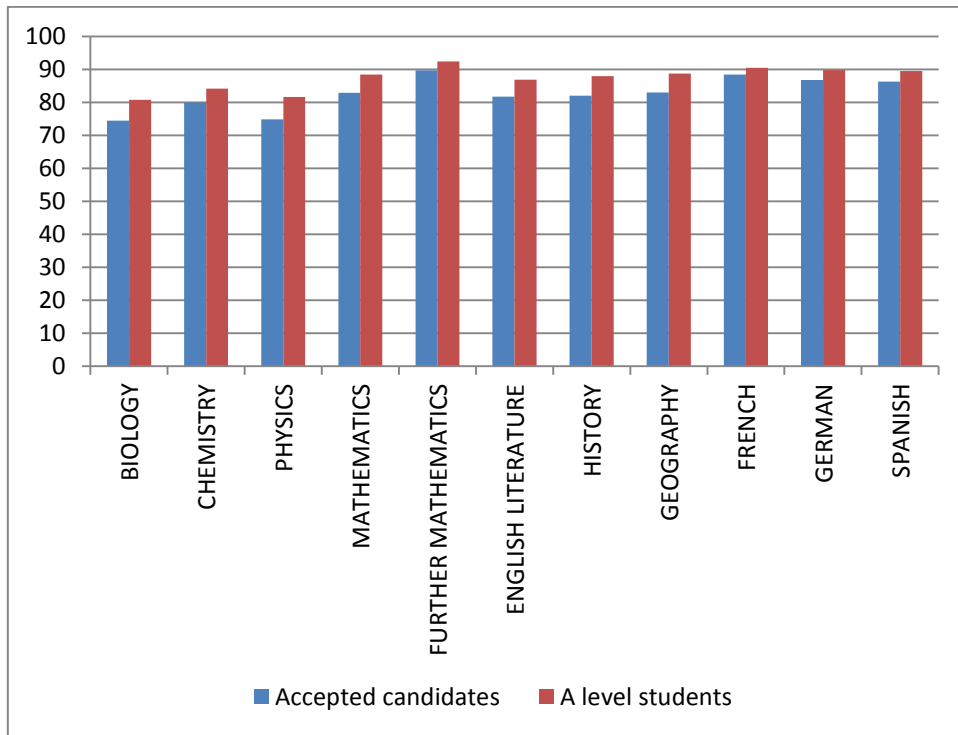


Figure 5: A level facilitating subjects ~ percentages achieving at least a grade C in each subject

3.3 Combinations of A level subjects

3.3.1 Uptake

The tables presented in this section of the report show which combinations of A level subjects were most commonly held by undergraduates in UK higher education institutions.

Table 11 shows the number of A level subjects held by students. 63% of the A level cohort had three or more A levels, but this proportion was markedly higher among applicants to university (77%) and those who were accepted onto a course (80%). Note that some students may have held other qualifications in addition to A levels, such as BTEC, OCR National, or Extended Project qualifications. This was likely to be the case for students who held only one A level, for example.

Table 11: Number of A level subjects taken

Number of subjects	Percentage of			Acceptance rate (%)
	A level students (N = 291611)	University applicants (N = 304867)	Accepted applicants (N = 252126)	
1	15.5	8.4	7.2	70.3
2	21.8	14.9	13.3	73.7
3	53.1	64.3	66.5	85.5
4	8.7	11.2	12.0	88.0
5+	0.8	1.1	1.1	84.4

Table 12 shows the number of facilitating subjects (as defined by the Russell Group and discussed in Section 3.2) held by students. The Russell Group recommends that students take at least two facilitating subjects at A level in order to keep most options for subject choice open (although they caution that some degrees, such as Music or Art, will require non-facilitating subjects to be chosen at A level). The majority of students, including those accepted at university, held A levels in fewer than two facilitating subjects.

Table 12: Number of facilitating A level subjects taken

Number of facilitating subjects	Percentage of			Acceptance rate (%)
	A level students (N = 291611)	University applicants (N = 304867)	Accepted applicants (N = 252126)	
0	32.8	27.9	26.4	78.2
1	29.2	28.5	28.5	82.7
2	20.6	22.7	23.6	85.8
3	14.2	16.7	17.2	85.2
4	3.0	3.9	4.0	86.1
5+	0.2	0.3	0.3	85.2

Table 13 breaks down the number of facilitating subjects held by university mission group. There is considerable variation across the groups, with students attending Russell Group universities holding the highest number of facilitating subjects (2.3 on average) and those attending Million+ Group institutions the lowest (0.9).

Table 13: Number of facilitating A level subjects taken, by university mission group

Number of facilitating subjects	Percentage of students at				
	Russell Group (N = 61514)	1994 Group (N = 32340)	University Alliance (N = 63027)	Million+ Group (N = 44226)	Other (N = 51019)
0	6.9	10.6	33.6	44.0	35.7
1	18.9	24.9	33.3	32.8	32.6
2	29.0	31.7	22.0	16.5	19.9
3	32.9	26.1	10.4	6.4	10.6
4	11.4	6.3	0.7	0.3	1.2
5+	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 14 shows the most popular 20 combinations of A level subjects held by applicants to university, accepted applicants, and the whole A level cohort. The data has been restricted to students who have taken at least three A levels, excluding General Studies. Notably the combinations in the list were the same for all three groups of students, although the ordering varied.

The list is dominated by combinations of science subjects, with Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics being by far the most popular combination. The most common combination consisting of humanities subjects was English Literature, History and Psychology. Although as Table 2 showed, Chemistry and History were taken by approximately the same number of university applicants, Chemistry featured in nine of the top 20 combinations, whereas History was only in five. The reason is likely to be because of the variety of humanities subjects commonly taken at A level, compared to the relatively small number of science subjects.

The proportion of applicants that were accepted onto a course is also shown in Table 14. There is considerable variation in this proportion between combinations, compared to the overall average for all applicants of 85.8%. Two combinations in the list have particularly low acceptance rates: Biology, Chemistry and Physics; and Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics (with rates of 76.8% and 76.7% respectively). The dataset does not contain details of intended subject of study for unsuccessful applicants, but Wilde and Hoelscher (2007)¹⁰ found that applicants intending to follow courses in Medicine & Dentistry, and Subjects allied to Medicine were over-represented among non-placed applicants over the period 2003–6. Given the subject combinations involved it seems likely that the competitive nature of these courses is the reason for the relatively low acceptance rates.

The acceptance rate for Chemistry, Further Mathematics, Mathematics and Physics (90.6%) was higher than the rate for the same combination without Further Mathematics (84.1%). However, this could be due to other characteristics (such as relative academic ability) of students who chose to study Further Mathematics in addition, or whose schools/colleges offered it.

¹⁰ Wilde, S. & Hoelscher, M. (2007). *Missed opportunities: non-placed applicants (NPAs) in the UCAS data*. Cheltenham: UCAS.

Table 14: Top 20 combinations of A level subjects

Combination of A level subjects	A level students		University applicants		Accepted applicants		Acceptance rate (%)
	%	rank	%	rank	%	rank	
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + MATHEMATICS	5.3	1	5.0	1	4.7	1	80.6
CHEMISTRY + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	2.0	2	2.1	2	2.1	2	84.1
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + PSYCHOLOGY	1.4	3	1.2	4	1.1	4	84.2
CHEMISTRY + FURTHER MATHEMATICS + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	1.1	4	1.1	5	1.2	3	90.6
FURTHER MATHEMATICS + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	1.0	5	1.0	6	1.0	6	88.2
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + PHYSICS	0.9	6	0.9	7	0.8	7	76.8
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	0.9	7	1.2	3	1.1	5	76.7
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + GEOGRAPHY	0.8	8	0.7	8	0.7	8	86.1
ENGLISH LITERATURE + HISTORY + PSYCHOLOGY	0.6	9	0.5	12	0.6	12	88.4
BIOLOGY + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	0.6	10	0.6	9	0.6	10	86.5
ENGLISH LITERATURE + GOVERNMENT & POLITICS + HISTORY	0.6	11	0.6	10	0.6	9	90.0
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + HISTORY	0.6	12	0.5	14	0.5	14	81.1
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	0.6	13	0.5	13	0.5	13	89.2
ENGLISH LITERATURE + HISTORY + RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0.6	14	0.5	11	0.6	11	89.7
ECONOMICS + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	0.5	15	0.5	15	0.5	15	81.4
BIOLOGY + PHYSICAL EDUCATION + PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	16	0.4	19	0.4	19	84.2
BIOLOGY + MATHEMATICS + PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	17	0.4	20	0.4	20	86.5
GEOGRAPHY + MATHEMATICS + PHYSICS	0.4	18	0.4	17	0.4	16	87.5
ART & DESIGN + ENGLISH LITERATURE + HISTORY	0.4	19	0.4	18	0.4	17	87.7
BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY + ENGLISH LITERATURE	0.4	20	0.4	16	0.4	18	83.3

Tables 15 to 19 show the most popular A level subject combinations among students attending universities in different mission groups (restricted to students who have taken at least three A levels, excluding General Studies). The ranking and percentage across all accepted applicants (again restricted to students with at least three A levels, excluding General Studies) is also shown for comparison.

While the top two A level subject combinations overall were strongly represented in each of the university groups, there were some more unusual combinations, particularly in the Million+ Group (Law, Psychology and Sociology) and in the Russell Group (Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics) universities.

Table 15: Most popular A level combinations for Russell Group students

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	7.2	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	3.3	2	2.1
3	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	3.1	3	1.2
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.4	5	1.1
5	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.9	6	1.0
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	1.1	8	0.7
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	1.0	7	0.8
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.0	4	1.1
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	0.9	9	0.6
10	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.9	24	0.3

Table 16: Most popular A level combinations for 1994 Group students

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	4.5	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.8	2	2.1
3	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.8	3	1.2
4	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.6	5	1.1
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.2	6	1.0
6	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	0.9	8	0.7
7	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.8	7	0.8
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.8	4	1.1
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0.8	9	0.6
10	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	0.8	24	0.3

Table 17: Most popular A level combinations for University Alliance students

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	3.3	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.4	2	2.1
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.4	4	1.1
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	0.8	7	0.8
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	0.7	8	0.7
6	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.6	13	0.5
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.6	12	0.5
8	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	19	0.4
9	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.5	10	0.6
10	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.5	6	1.0

Table 18: Most popular A level combinations for Million+ Group students

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	3.0	1	4.7
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.4	4	1.1
3	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.1	2	2.1
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	0.8	21	0.3
5	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.6	12	0.5
6	LAW+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	0.6	35	0.3
7	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	19	0.4
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	0.5	7	0.8
9	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	0.5	30	0.3
10	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	20	0.4

Table 19: Most popular A level combinations for students at other universities

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	4.0	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.3	2	2.1
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.0	4	1.1
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	0.8	7	0.8
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	0.7	8	0.7
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.6	5	1.1
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.6	12	0.5
8	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.5	10	0.6
9	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	0.5	17	0.4
10	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	0.5	9	0.6

Table 20 shows the most popular A level combinations among applicants (with at least three A levels excluding General Studies) who were not accepted onto a course at university, with the ranking and percentage across accepted applicants shown for comparison. As also seen in Table 14, students with Biology, Chemistry and Physics were particularly over-represented which may be due to the competitive nature of admissions onto courses in Medicine & Dentistry, and Subjects allied to Medicine.

Table 20: Most popular A level combinations among non-accepted applicants

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank (accepted applicants)	Overall % (accepted applicants)
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	6.8	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.4	2	2.1
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.0	6	1.0
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	1.5	7	0.8
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.3	4	1.1
6	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.8	6	1.0
7	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.7	5	1.1
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	0.7	8	0.7
9	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+HISTORY	0.7	14	0.5
10	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.7	15	0.5

Appendix D shows tables of popular combinations by university subject area.

3.3.2 Performance

Table 21 shows the cumulative distribution of A level grades held by applicants to university, accepted applicants, and the whole A level cohort. This analysis is restricted to students holding more than three A levels (excluding General Studies). For clarity and brevity, A* grades are represented as '*' in this table. The grades have been compared on an individual basis, so higher grades in one A level do not compensate for lower grades in another; for example, **C is not classed as ABB or above. Only the best three grades held by each student have been used for comparison.

The distributions were similar between the three groups, but the highest grade combinations (for example *AA and above) were more frequent among accepted applicants than all applicants, and also more frequent among university applicants than among the whole A level cohort.

Table 21: Cumulative distribution of A level grades

<i>Grade combination (at least)</i>	<i>A level students (%)</i>	<i>University applicants (%)</i>	<i>Accepted applicants (%)</i>
***	3.0	3.3	3.4
**A	7.0	7.5	7.8
*AA	13.1	13.8	14.5
AAA	18.2	19.2	20.2
AAB	29.2	30.5	32.3
ABB	38.4	39.8	42.2
BBB	43.1	44.7	47.2
BBC	58.3	60.1	63.0
BCC	66.8	68.7	71.6
CCC	69.8	71.7	74.6
CCD	83.9	85.5	87.9
CDD	88.9	90.2	92.0
DDD	90.0	91.1	92.8
DDE	98.1	98.5	99.0
DEE	99.8	99.8	99.9
EEE	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 22 shows the percentage of candidates with A level grades equal to or exceeding two thresholds (ABB and AAB) broken down by university mission group. Approximately a third of applicants gained ABB or above, and a quarter gained AAB or above. However, there is wide variation in these measures across university groups, with around two thirds of Russell Group students holding AAB or above, but only 3% of Million+ Group students.

Table 22: Percentage of applicants gaining ABB, AAB or above, by university mission group

<i>University mission group</i>	<i>% ABB+</i>	<i>% AAB+</i>
Russell Group	84.3	70.7
1994 Group	69.8	52.3
University Alliance	12.2	5.6
Million+ Group	5.9	2.9
Other	18.9	11.9
All accepted applicants	42.2	32.3
Non-placed applicants	25.8	19.7
All applicants	39.8	30.5
All A level students	38.4	29.2

Figure 6 shows the distribution of the average A level grade¹¹ by university mission group among accepted students. There is a clear gulf between the grade distributions of students attending universities in the Russell and 1994 Groups and the other university groups.

¹¹ The average A level grade for a student has been calculated under the assumption that the grade scale is linear, such that the average of ABC is B. This assumption also underlies the UCAS tariff system.

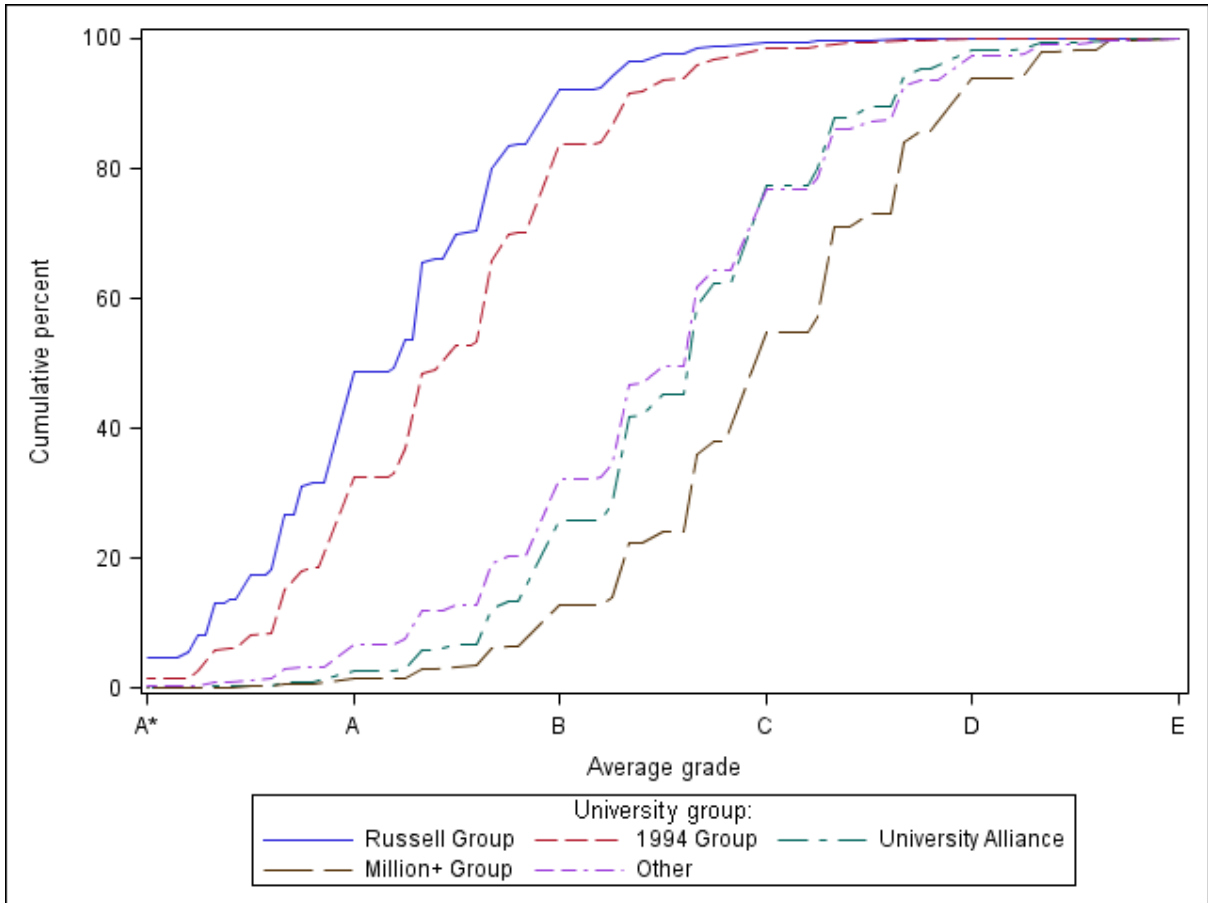


Figure 6: Average A level grade, by university mission group

Appendix A: University subjects and degree subject areas

As mentioned in the report, the subject of study at university was provided as a full list of 180 subject lines (using the JACS system). These relate to the principal subject of the student's qualification aim. The subject of study can be aggregated into 25 broad subject areas. The table below presents the subject lines and the degree subject areas used in this research.

<i>Degree subject area</i>	<i>Subject line</i>
Medicine & dentistry	(A0) Broadly-based programmes within medicine & dentistry (A1) Pre-clinical medicine (A2) Pre-clinical dentistry (A3) Clinical medicine (A4) Clinical dentistry (A9) Others in medicine & dentistry
Subjects allied to medicine	(B0) Broadly-based programmes within subjects allied to medicine (B1) Anatomy, physiology & pathology (B2) Pharmacology, toxicology & pharmacy (B3) Complementary medicine (B4) Nutrition (B5) Ophthalmics (B6) Aural & oral sciences (B7) Nursing (B8) Medical technology (B9) Others in subjects allied to medicine
Biological sciences	(C0) Broadly-based programmes within biological sciences (C1) Biology (C2) Botany (C3) Zoology (C4) Genetics (C5) Microbiology (C6) Sports science (C7) Molecular biology, biophysics & biochemistry (C8) Psychology (C9) Others in biological sciences
Veterinary science, agriculture & related subjects	(D0) Broadly-based programmes within agriculture & related subjects (D1) Pre-clinical veterinary medicine (D2) Clinical veterinary medicine & dentistry (D3) Animal science (D4) Agriculture (D5) Forestry (D6) Food & beverage studies (D7) Agricultural sciences (D9) Others in veterinary sciences, agriculture & related subjects
Physical sciences	(F0) Broadly-based programmes within physical sciences (F1) Chemistry (F2) Materials science (F3) Physics (F4) Forensic & archaeological science (F5) Astronomy (F6) Geology (F7) Science of aquatic and terrestrial environments (F8) Physical geographical sciences (F9) Others in physical sciences

Degree subject area	Subject line
Mathematical & computer sciences	(G01) Broadly-based programmes within mathematical sciences (G02) Broadly-based programmes within computer science (G1) Mathematics (G2) Operational research (G3) Statistics (G4) Computer science (G5) Information systems (G6) Software engineering (G7) Artificial intelligence (G91) Others in mathematical sciences (G92) Others in computing science
Engineering	(H0) Broadly-based programmes within engineering & technology (H1) General engineering (H2) Civil engineering (H3) Mechanical engineering (H4) Aerospace engineering (H5) Naval architecture (H6) Electronic & electrical engineering (H7) Production & manufacturing engineering (H8) Chemical, process & energy engineering (H9) Others in engineering
Technologies	(J1) Minerals technology (J2) Metallurgy (J3) Ceramics & glasses (J4) Polymers & textiles (J5) Materials technology not otherwise specified (J6) Maritime technology (J7) Biotechnology (J9) Others in technology (includes Music Technology)
Architecture, building & planning	(K0) Broadly-based programmes within architecture, building & planning (K1) Architecture (K2) Building (K3) Landscape design (K4) Planning (urban, rural & regional) (K9) Others in architecture, building & planning
Social studies	(L0) Broadly-based programmes within social studies (L1) Economics (L2) Politics (L3) Sociology (L4) Social policy (L5) Social work (L6) Anthropology (L7) Human & social geography (L9) Others in social studies
Law	(M0) Broadly-based programmes within law (M1) Law by area (M2) Law by topic (M9) Others in law

Degree subject area	Subject line
Business & administrative studies	(N0) Broadly-based programmes within business & administrative studies (N1) Business studies (N2) Management studies (N3) Finance (N4) Accounting (N5) Marketing (N6) Human resource management (N7) Office skills (N8) Hospitality, leisure, tourism & transport (N9) Others in business & administrative studies
Mass communications & documentation	(P0) Broadly-based programmes within mass communications and documentation (P1) Information services (P2) Publicity studies (P3) Media studies (P4) Publishing (P5) Journalism (P9) Others in mass communications & documentation
Linguistics, classics & related	(Q0) Broadly-based programmes within languages (Q1) Linguistics (Q2) Comparative literary studies (Q3) English studies (Q4) Ancient language studies (Q5) Celtic studies (Q6) Latin studies (Q7) Classical Greek studies (Q8) Classical studies (Q9) Others in linguistics, classics & related subjects
European languages, literature & related	(R1) French studies (R2) German studies (R3) Italian studies (R4) Spanish studies (R5) Portuguese studies (R6) Scandinavian studies (R7) Russian & East European studies (R8) European studies (R9) Others in European languages, literature & related subjects
Non-European languages & related	(T1) Chinese studies (T2) Japanese studies (T3) South Asian studies (T4) Other Asian studies (T5) African studies (T6) Modern Middle Eastern studies (T7) American studies (T8) Australasian studies (T9) Others in Eastern, Asiatic, African, American & Australasian languages, literature & related subjects
Historical & philosophical studies	(V0) Broadly-based programmes within historical and philosophical studies (V1) History by period (V2) History by area (V3) History by topic (V4) Archaeology (V5) Philosophy (V6) Theology & religious studies (V9) Others in historical & philosophical studies

Degree subject area	Subject line
Creative arts & design	(W0) Broadly-based programmes within creative arts & design (W1) Fine art (W2) Design studies (W3) Music (W4) Drama (W5) Dance (W6) Cinematics & photography (W7) Crafts (W8) Imaginative writing (W9) Others in creative arts & design
Education	(X0) Broadly-based programmes within education (X1) Training teachers (X2) Research & study skills in education (X3) Academic studies in education (X9) Others in education
Combined arts	Combs of arts/humanities Combs of languages Combs of languages with arts/humanities
Combined sciences	Y Combs of engineering/tech/building studies Y Combs of engineering/technology Y Combs of med/bio/agric sciences Y Combs of med/bio/agric sciences with physics/math sciences Y Combs of physics/math sciences Y Combs of sciences with engineering/technology
Combined social sciences	Y Combs of social studies/law Y Combs of social studies/law with business
Sciences combined with social sciences or arts	Y Combs of physics/math science with arts/humanities/languages Y Combs of physics/math science with social studies/bus/law Y Combs of science/engineering with arts/humanities/languages Y Combs of science/engineering with social studies/bus/law
Social sciences combined with arts	Y Combs of social studies/bus/law with arts/humanities Y Combs of social studies/bus/law with languages
General, other combined & unknown	Combs of three subjects, or other general courses Other courses not elsewhere classified

Appendix B: University mission groups

Some universities formed groups through which they share ideas and resources regarding issues and procedures in the higher education sector. For this research, UCAS provided the following university groups: Russell Group, 1994 Group, University Alliance and Million+ Group. Universities that have not joined any of these groups were included in a separate group, labelled as Other.

In this Appendix, a description taken from statements provided on their websites and a list of members of each group is provided¹².

The Russell Group (<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk>)

"The Russell Group is an association of leading UK research-intensive universities committed to maintaining the highest standards of research, education and knowledge transfer. The members of The Russell Group have the quality and strengths to compete successfully in the global market place for research, skills, expertise and training."

"The aims and objectives of The Russell Group are to promote the interests of universities in which teaching and learning are undertaken within a culture of research excellence, and to identify and disseminate new thinking and ideas about the organisation and management of such institutions."

List of member institutions of the Russell Group

Cardiff University
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
King's College London
London School of Economics and Political Science
The Queen's University of Belfast
The University of Manchester
The University of Birmingham
The University of Bristol
The University of Cambridge
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow
The University of Leeds
The University of Liverpool
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
The University of Nottingham
The University of Oxford
The University of Sheffield
The University of Southampton
The University of Warwick
University College London

¹² Membership of these groups has changed since the UCAS data used in this research was provided to us (April 2012). For example, the University of Durham, the University of Exeter, Queen Mary and Westfield College and the University of York joined the Russell Group in August 2012. However, analyses were carried out using the groups as in April 2012.

1994 Group (<http://www.1994group.ac.uk>)

"The 1994 Group represents nineteen of the UK's most research-intensive and internationally renowned universities. The 1994 Group's mission is to promote excellence in research and teaching. Seeking to promote excellence in the student experience is therefore at the very heart of what we do. Each member institution delivers an extremely high standard of education to its students, demonstrating excellence in teaching and academic support, and providing learning in a research-rich community."

List of member institutions of the 1994 Group

Birkbeck College
Goldsmiths College
Loughborough University
Queen Mary and Westfield College
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
The University of Bath
The University of East Anglia
The University of Essex
The University of Exeter
The University of Lancaster
The University of Leicester
The University of Reading
The University of St Andrews
The University of Surrey
The University of Sussex
The University of York
University of Durham

University Alliance (<http://www.university-alliance.ac.uk>)

"The University Alliance, previously convened informally as the Alliance of Non-Aligned Universities, was formed in 2006 comprising a mixture of pre and post 1992 universities. The member institutions have a balanced portfolio of research, teaching, enterprise and innovation integral to their missions and represent a strong voice from the middle sector making a vital contribution to the prosperity of the country."

List of member institutions of the University Alliance Group

Aberystwyth University
Bournemouth University
De Montfort University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Liverpool John Moores University
Oxford Brookes University
Sheffield Hallam University
The Manchester Metropolitan University
The Nottingham Trent University
The University of Bradford
The University of Huddersfield
The University of Lincoln
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle
The University of Plymouth
The University of Portsmouth
The University of Salford
The University of Teesside
The University of Wales, Newport
University of Glamorgan
University of Hertfordshire
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff
University of the West of England, Bristol

Million+ (<http://www.millionplus.ac.uk>)

"We are a university think-tank. This means we work to help solve complex problems in higher education and to ensure that policy reflects the potential of the UK's world-class university system."

"Our member institutions pride themselves on diversity, flexibility and opportunity: each has its own specialities, qualities and principles, but together they provide a network of institutions that truly promote aspiration, excellence and innovation."

List of member institutions of Million+ Group

Anglia Ruskin University
Bath Spa University
Birmingham City University
Buckinghamshire New University
Coventry University
Edinburgh Napier University
Kingston University
Leeds Metropolitan University
London Metropolitan University
London South Bank University
Middlesex University
Roehampton University
Southampton Solent University
Staffordshire University
The University of Bolton
The University of Central Lancashire
The University of East London
The University of Greenwich
The University of Northampton
The University of Sunderland
The University of Wolverhampton
University of Bedfordshire
University of Derby
University of Gloucestershire

Appendix C: University acceptances by degree subject area and university mission group (2010/11 application cycle)

Table C1: University acceptances by degree subject area

<i>Degree subject area</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Architecture, Building and Planning	8956	1.8
Biological Sciences	40227	8.2
Business & Administrative Studies	61484	12.5
Combined Arts	12778	2.6
Combined Sciences	8361	1.7
Combined Social Sciences	5639	1.1
Creative Arts & Design	53258	10.8
Education	17136	3.5
Engineering	26022	5.3
European Languages, Literature & related	4576	0.9
General, other combined & unknown	3972	0.8
History & Philosophical studies	15092	3.1
Law	22768	4.6
Linguistics, Classics & related	12660	2.6
Mass Communications & Documentation	11834	2.4
Mathematics & Computer Science	29265	5.9
Medicine & Dentistry	9067	1.8
Non-European Languages & related	1434	0.3
Physical Sciences	18464	3.8
Sciences combined with social sciences or arts	19797	4.0
Social Studies	40225	8.2
Social sciences combined with arts	11962	2.4
Subjects allied to Medicine	48023	9.8
Technologies	2817	0.6
Veterinary Science, Agriculture & related	6213	1.3
<i>All areas</i>	492030 ¹³	

Table C2: University acceptances by university mission group

<i>University group</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Russell Group	89921	18.4
1994 Group	50123	10.2
University Alliance	110329	22.5
Million +	113538	23.2
Other	128119	25.6

¹³ This figure includes candidates from Scotland and overseas.

Appendix D: Most popular A level subject combinations for degree subject areas

These tables present the ten most popular A level combinations among students enrolled on courses in given subject areas (restricted to students who have taken at least three A levels, excluding General Studies). The ranking and percentage across accepted applicants in all subjects (again restricted to students with at least three A levels, excluding General Studies) is also shown for comparison.

Table D1: Architecture, Building and Planning

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ART & DESIGN+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	6.0	34	0.3
2	ART & DESIGN+DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+MATHEMATICS	2.4	113	0.1
3	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.4	13	0.5
4	ART & DESIGN+GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS	1.9	170	0.1
5	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.1	2	2.1
6	ART & DESIGN+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	1.1	293	0.1
7	ART & DESIGN+HISTORY+MATHEMATICS	1.0	357	0.1
8	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.0	6	1.0
9	ART & DESIGN+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.0	243	0.1
10	ART & DESIGN+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.9	396	0.0

Table D2: Biological Sciences

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	9.2	1	4.7
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	3.5	4	1.1
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	2.1	7	0.8
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	1.9	8	0.7
5	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	1.9	19	0.4
6	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PSYCHOLOGY	1.7	20	0.4
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+HISTORY	1.3	14	0.5
8	BIOLOGY+ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY	1.2	31	0.3
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.2	12	0.5
10	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.0	5	1.1

Table D3: Business & Administrative Studies

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BUSINESS STUDIES+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.3	49	0.2
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	1.2	1	4.7
3	ACCOUNTING+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.2	64	0.2
4	ACCOUNTING+BUSINESS STUDIES+MATHEMATICS	1.1	117	0.1
5	BUSINESS STUDIES+MATHEMATICS+PSYCHOLOGY	0.7	130	0.1
6	ACCOUNTING+BUSINESS STUDIES+ECONOMICS	0.7	196	0.1
7	ECONOMICS+GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS	0.7	27	0.3
8	BUSINESS STUDIES+ICT+MATHEMATICS	0.7	145	0.1
9	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.7	15	0.5
10	BUSINESS STUDIES+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	0.6	65	0.2

Table D4: Combined Arts

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.8	25	0.3
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.8	11	0.6
3	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+HISTORY	1.8	28	0.3
4	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.3	17	0.4
5	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.2	12	0.5
6	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	1.1	9	0.6
7	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	0.9	41	0.2
8	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0.8	91	0.1
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+MEDIA STUDIES	0.8	62	0.2
10	BIOLOGY+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	0.7	40	0.2

Table D5: Combined Sciences

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	10.8	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	3.8	2	2.1
3	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.9	3	1.2
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	2.6	4	1.1
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.5	5	1.1
6	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	2.2	19	0.4
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	2.1	7	0.8
8	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.1	6	1.0
9	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2.1	43	0.2
10	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.5	10	0.6

Table D6: Combined Social Sciences

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ECONOMICS+GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS	1.5	27	0.3
2	ECONOMICS+HISTORY+MATHEMATICS	1.5	23	0.3
3	LAW+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	1.4	35	0.3
4	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.2	15	0.5
5	BUSINESS STUDIES+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.2	49	0.2
6	ACCOUNTING+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.1	64	0.2
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	1.1	21	0.3
8	BIOLOGY+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.0	54	0.2
9	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	0.9	30	0.3
10	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PSYCHOLOGY	0.9	63	0.2

Table D7: Creative Arts & Design

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ART & DESIGN+ART & DESIGN+MEDIA STUDIES	1.7	56	0.2
2	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.2	17	0.4
3	ART & DESIGN+DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+ENGLISH LITERATURE	1.2	114	0.1
4	ART & DESIGN+DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+MEDIA STUDIES	1.1	105	0.1
5	ART & DESIGN+ART & DESIGN+DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	1.1	137	0.1
6	ART & DESIGN+ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE	1.0	116	0.1
7	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+MEDIA STUDIES	1.0	60	0.2
8	ART & DESIGN+DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE	1.0	89	0.1
9	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY	1.0	33	0.3
10	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	0.9	25	0.3

Table D8: Education

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	1.8	30	0.3
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	1.1	21	0.3
3	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.1	12	0.5
4	ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	1.1	51	0.2
5	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0.9	11	0.6
6	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY	0.8	33	0.3
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+SOCIOLOGY	0.7	32	0.3
8	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY	0.7	69	0.2
9	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	0.6	19	0.4
10	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	0.5	25	0.3

Table D9: Engineering

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	16.9	2	2.1
2	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	7.0	3	1.2
3	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	6.9	13	0.5
4	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	5.9	6	1.0
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	3.9	1	4.7
6	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	3.6	10	0.6
7	GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.8	16	0.4
8	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.6	15	0.5
9	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.2	5	1.1
10	ELECTRONICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.7	133	0.1

Table D10: European Languages, Literature & related

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+SPANISH	4.8	107	0.1
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+HISTORY	2.3	28	0.3
3	FRENCH+MATHEMATICS+SPANISH	2.1	296	0.1
4	FRENCH+HISTORY+SPANISH	1.9	274	0.1
5	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+GERMAN	1.8	326	0.1
6	FRENCH+GEOGRAPHY+SPANISH	1.3	447	0.0
7	ECONOMICS+FRENCH+SPANISH	1.2	459	0.0
8	FRENCH+GERMAN+MATHEMATICS	1.2	581	0.0
9	FRENCH+PSYCHOLOGY+SPANISH	1.0	564	0.0
10	FRENCH+GERMAN+HISTORY	0.9	572	0.0

Table D11: General, other combined & unknown

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	9.7	3	1.2
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	8.0	1	4.7
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	6.7	5	1.1
4	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	4.4	2	2.1
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS	3.5	26	0.3
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.6	103	0.1
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	1.5	7	0.8
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.4	4	1.1
9	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.2	10	0.6
10	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.0	24	0.3

Table D12: History & Philosophical studies

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	4.0	11	0.6
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	2.7	9	0.6
3	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.9	12	0.5
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GEOGRAPHY+HISTORY	1.7	22	0.3
5	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.5	17	0.4
6	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+MATHEMATICS	1.3	37	0.3
7	BIOLOGY+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.1	40	0.2
8	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+HISTORY	1.1	28	0.3
9	GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.0	58	0.2
10	CLASSICAL CIVILISATION+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.0	95	0.1

Table D13: Law

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	LAW+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	2.1	35	0.3
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+LAW	1.3	94	0.1
3	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	1.2	9	0.6
4	HISTORY+LAW+PSYCHOLOGY	1.2	110	0.1
5	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+LAW+PSYCHOLOGY	1.1	104	0.1
6	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.0	11	0.6
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+LAW+PSYCHOLOGY	1.0	121	0.1
8	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.9	12	0.5
9	ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE+LAW+PSYCHOLOGY	0.9	141	0.1
10	BUSINESS STUDIES+LAW+PSYCHOLOGY	0.7	136	0.1

Table D14: Linguistics, Classics & related

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	2.2	41	0.2
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	2.1	12	0.5
3	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	2.0	11	0.6
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	2.0	9	0.6
5	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.6	17	0.4
6	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY	1.3	69	0.2
7	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.1	25	0.3
8	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+HISTORY	1.1	28	0.3
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+MATHEMATICS	1.1	37	0.3
10	BIOLOGY+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.1	40	0.2

Table D15: Mass Communications & Documentation

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LANGUAGE+MEDIA STUDIES	1.6	83	0.2
2	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+MEDIA STUDIES	1.5	62	0.2
3	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+MEDIA STUDIES+SOCIOLOGY	1.5	108	0.1
4	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+MEDIA STUDIES	1.5	60	0.2
5	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+MEDIA STUDIES	1.4	80	0.2
6	ENGLISH LITERATURE+MEDIA STUDIES+PSYCHOLOGY	1.3	79	0.2
7	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+MEDIA STUDIES+PSYCHOLOGY	1.3	97	0.1
8	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+FILM STUDIES+MEDIA STUDIES	1.3	207	0.1
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FILM STUDIES+MEDIA STUDIES	1.3	229	0.1
10	ENGLISH LITERATURE+MEDIA STUDIES+SOCIOLOGY	1.2	119	0.1

Table D16: Mathematics & Computer Science

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	7.8	6	1.0
2	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	5.5	3	1.2
3	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	3.2	2	2.1
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	3.1	1	4.7
5	COMPUTING+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.6	39	0.2
6	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.9	24	0.3
7	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS	1.8	77	0.2
8	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS	1.7	45	0.2
9	COMPUTING+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.4	152	0.1
10	ICT+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.1	76	0.2

Table D17: Medicine & Dentistry

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	31.8	1	4.7
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	11.9	5	1.1
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	3.9	7	0.8
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	3.5	8	0.7
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	3.4	4	1.1
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS	2.8	26	0.3
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+FRENCH+MATHEMATICS	2.4	100	0.1
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+HISTORY	2.4	14	0.5
9	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+ENGLISH LITERATURE	2.1	18	0.4
10	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS	1.8	84	0.2

Table D18: Non European Languages & related

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	2.8	9	0.6
2	FRENCH+MATHEMATICS+SPANISH	1.8	296	0.1
3	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+SPANISH	1.7	107	0.1
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.7	11	0.6
5	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.5	25	0.3
6	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY	1.4	17	0.4
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GEOGRAPHY+HISTORY	1.4	22	0.3
8	FRENCH+HISTORY+SPANISH	1.2	274	0.1
9	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.1	12	0.5
10	ENGLISH LITERATURE+FRENCH+HISTORY	0.9	28	0.3

Table D19: Physical Sciences

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	10.3	2	2.1
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	7.5	1	4.7
3	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	4.7	3	1.2
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	2.8	8	0.7
5	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.6	6	1.0
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.3	5	1.1
7	GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.0	16	0.4
8	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.9	10	0.6
9	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	1.9	7	0.8
10	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.6	4	1.1

Table D20: Sciences combined with social sciences or arts

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	1.1	1	4.7
2	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS	1.0	45	0.2
3	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	0.9	19	0.4
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY+SOCIOLOGY	0.8	21	0.3
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.6	4	1.1
6	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.6	2	2.1
7	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.6	6	1.0
8	BUSINESS STUDIES+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	109	0.1
9	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	0.5	24	0.3
10	ART & DESIGN+ENGLISH LITERATURE+PSYCHOLOGY	0.5	33	0.3

Table D21: Social Studies

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ECONOMICS+GEOGRAPHY+MATHEMATICS	2.0	27	0.3
2	ECONOMICS+HISTORY+MATHEMATICS	1.9	23	0.3
3	ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.7	15	0.5
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	1.6	9	0.6
5	ECONOMICS+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	1.2	44	0.2
6	ECONOMICS+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+MATHEMATICS	1.1	86	0.1
7	BIOLOGY+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.1	54	0.2
8	ECONOMICS+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.0	24	0.3
9	CHEMISTRY+ECONOMICS+MATHEMATICS	1.0	36	0.3
10	GEOGRAPHY+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	0.8	70	0.2

Table D22: Social sciences combined with arts

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	ENGLISH LITERATURE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	2.8	9	0.6
2	ECONOMICS+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	1.2	44	0.2
3	GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.1	58	0.2
4	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.1	11	0.6
5	GEOGRAPHY+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	0.9	70	0.2
6	GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY+SOCIOLOGY	0.9	90	0.1
7	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+SOCIOLOGY	0.8	32	0.3
8	ECONOMICS+HISTORY+MATHEMATICS	0.8	23	0.3
9	ENGLISH LANGUAGE+GOVERNMENT & POLITICS+HISTORY	0.7	168	0.1
10	ENGLISH LITERATURE+HISTORY+PSYCHOLOGY	0.7	12	0.5

Table D23: Subjects allied to Medicine

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	21.5	1	4.7
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	6.7	4	1.1
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	3.0	7	0.8
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.5	5	1.1
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	2.5	8	0.7
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+HISTORY	1.9	14	0.5
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+ENGLISH LITERATURE	1.6	18	0.4
8	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1.2	55	0.2
9	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.1	42	0.2
10	BIOLOGY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION+PSYCHOLOGY	1.1	19	0.4

Table D24: Technologies

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	5.5	1	4.7
2	CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	4.4	2	2.1
3	MATHEMATICS+MUSIC+PHYSICS	4.4	88	0.1
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	2.0	5	1.1
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	1.5	7	0.8
6	BIOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.5	10	0.6
7	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.5	13	0.5
8	FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.3	6	1.0
9	CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	1.1	3	1.2
10	MATHEMATICS+MUSIC+MUSIC+PHYSICS	1.1	1443	0.0

Table D25: Veterinary Science, Agriculture & related

Rank	Combination of A level subjects	%	Overall rank	Overall %
1	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS	17.2	1	4.7
2	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICS	5.7	7	0.8
3	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+GEOGRAPHY	4.0	8	0.7
4	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+MATHEMATICS+PHYSICS	3.8	5	1.1
5	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PSYCHOLOGY	2.7	4	1.1
6	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+ENGLISH LITERATURE	1.9	18	0.4
7	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+HISTORY	1.3	14	0.5
8	BIOLOGY+GEOGRAPHY+PSYCHOLOGY	1.2	38	0.2
9	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+FURTHER MATHEMATICS+MATHEMATICS	1.2	26	0.3
10	BIOLOGY+CHEMISTRY+PHYSICAL EDUCATION	0.9	42	0.2

