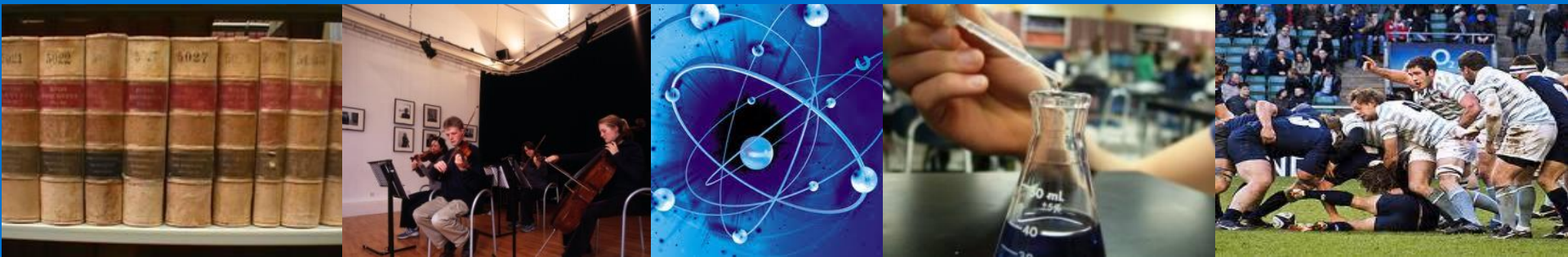
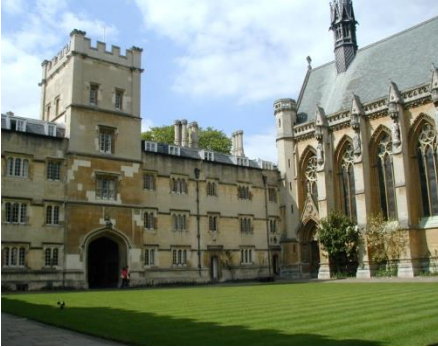


# Introduction and Applications to Oxbridge



# Introduction to University



What is the Russell Group?

Why might you choose to go to university?

What can you study at university? Does every university offer the same things?

**In small groups, can you answer one (or more) of these questions?**

What types of universities are there?

Do you have to be from a certain background or type of school to go to a top university?



# A world of choice!

How many Universities do you think there are in the UK?

130

How many of those do you think are in England?

108



# What makes a 'Top' university? #1

## The Russell Group

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

**University of Cambridge**

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University of Leeds

University of Liverpool

LSE (London School of  
Economics)

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

**University of Oxford**

Queen Mary (University of  
London)

Queen's University Belfast

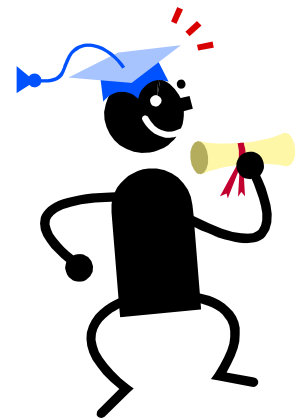
University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York



# What makes a 'Top' University? #2

Quality of Teaching

Student Satisfaction

Class Sizes

Ability of Staff

Student Support

Financial

Facilities Available

Personal

Social Life and Societies

Opportunities Available





# Why Oxford or Cambridge?



- Broad range of courses
- World-class teaching – lectures, seminars/classes, practicals
- Small-group teaching – tutorials/supervisions
- Excellent facilities and resources
- Academic, pastoral and financial support
- Wide range of extra-curricular options
- Excellent graduate opportunities, irrespective of degree discipline

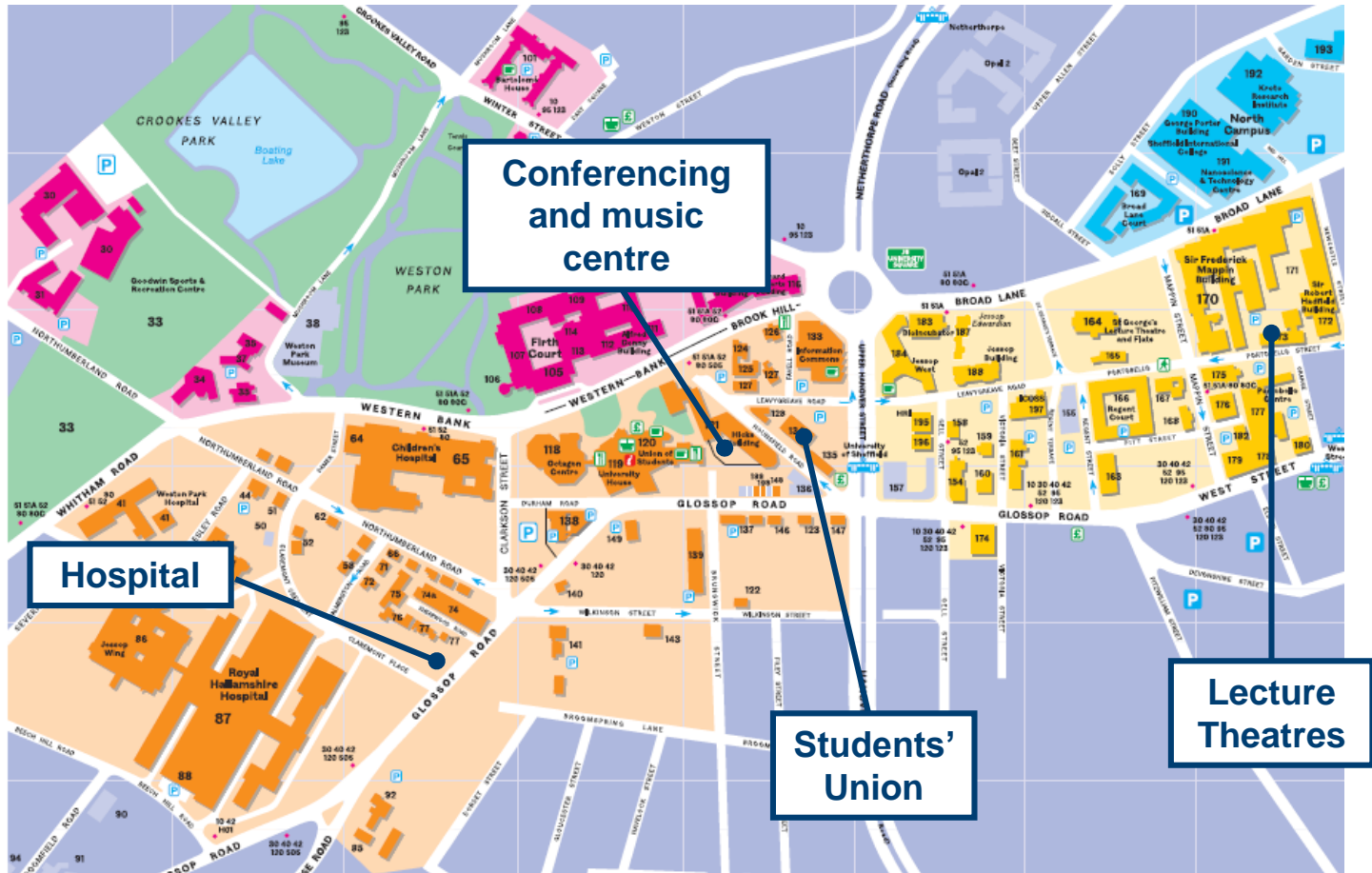
# What kinds of university are there? CAMPUS

## Campus University e.g. Queen Mary (University of London)



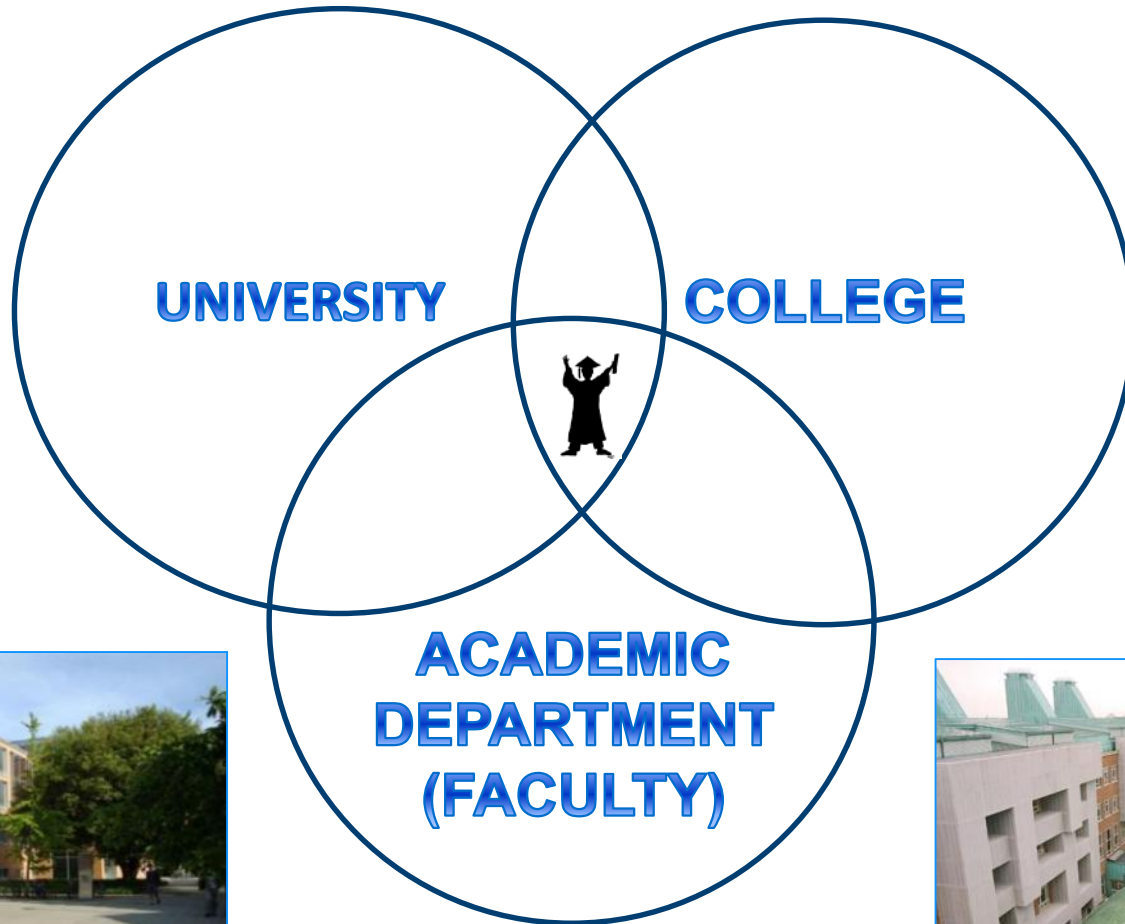
# What kinds of university are there? CITY

## City University e.g. University of Sheffield





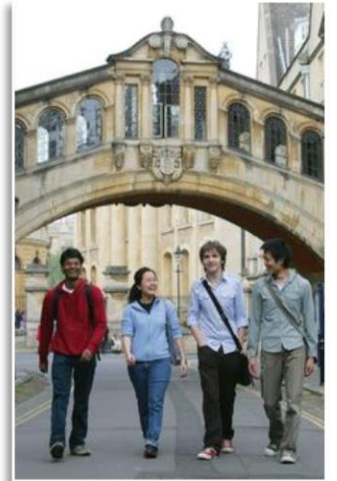
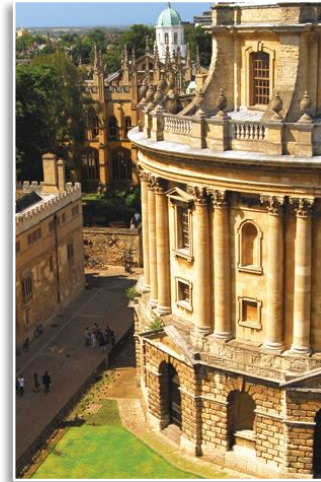
# Oxford and Cambridge are both COLLEGIATE Universities



# Universities and departments

*As a student, you're a member of the University, a department and a College.*

- Course content
- Lectures, seminars, practicals and projects
- Assessments and exams
- Award degrees
- Careers advice



# Colleges

***A College is like a mini campus, providing a base for students.***

- Admit students
- Academic and pastoral care
- Accommodation, dining and recreation
- Organise small-group teaching
- Facilities for academic study

***When considering Colleges, think about where you'd like to live – open application if you don't mind.***



How is university  
different to school?





# Teaching & learning

**Lectures**



**Seminars**



**Practicals (Labs)**



**Independent study**



**Time in the library**



**Supervisions (Oxford and Cambridge)**



# e.g. academic life in Cambridge

- Theoretical degrees
- Intensive 8-week terms
- Focus on independent study and learning
- Unique supervision teaching
- Assessment largely through exams





# Clubs and Societies

**African Prisons Project** African Science Truck Experience **African-Caribbean Society** Afrinspire **Aid and Save Animal Planet** Amateur Boxing Club Amateur Dramatic Club **American Football Club** American Stage Tour **Amnesty International** Anime and Manga Society **Arab Innovation Network** Archaeological Field Club **Archimedean** Architectes Sans Frontieres **Arts and Cultures Society** Assassins' Guild **Association Football Club** Women's Association Football Club **Astronomical Society** Atheist and Agnostic Society **Athletic Club** Australia and New Zealand Society **Australian Rules Football Club** Automobile Club **Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Society** Azerbaijan Society **Badminton Club** Baha'i **Ballet Club** Bangla Society **Baroque Ensemble** Basketball Club **Behavioural Economics Society** Blue Light Society **Blue Shakti A Capella Group** Boat Club **Bobbin Lace-Making Club** Boules Society **Bowmen** Brass Band Society **Brazilian Society** Breakdance Club **Bridge Club** Brunei Society **Buddhist Society** Bulgarian Society **Business School Club** Cambridge Cafe **Project Cambridge Futures** Canadian Club **Canoe Club** CantaBulgarian **Caving Club** Ceilidh **Band Chabad Jewish Society** Cambridge Cheerleading Society **Chess Club** Chinese Calligraphy Society **Chinese Cultural Society** Chinese New Year Trust Society **Chinese Society** Christians on Campus **Cinecam** Clay Pigeon Shooting Club **Commonwealth Society** Communist Society **Computing and Technology Society** Concert Band **Conservative Association** Consulting Society **Contemporary Dance Workshop** Cricket Club **Croquet Club** Cruising Club **Crusaders Cricket Club** Cycling Club **Cymdeithas Y Mabinogi** Czech & Slovak Society **Dancers Club** Cambridge Development Initiative **Dialectic Society** The Digital-Gaming Society **Diplomacy Society** Dr Perse Memorial Ancient Literature Society **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Society** Eastern African **Society** **Eco-House Initiative Society** Electronic Music Society **Energy Network** Engineers without Borders **Entrepreneurs** Environmental Consulting Society **Estonian Society** European Theatre Group **Expeditions Society** Fabian Society **Faith Forum** Falcons Football Club **Fencing Club** Film-Making and Production **Group Finnish Society** FireTroupe **First Aid Society** Fitzwilliam Museum Society **Fives & Rackets Association** Flute Choir Society **Footlights Dramatic Club** French Society **Fujian White Crane Kung Fu and Tai Chi** Full Blue **Racing Gaelic Athletic Club** Gastronomic Discovery **German Society** Ghanaian Society **Gilbert & Sullivan Society** Giving What We Can **Gliding Club** Go Society **Gog Magog Molly** Golf Club **GreenBRIDGE** Guild of Change Ringers **Handball Club** Hands-on Science **Heartstart** Hellenic Society **Heraldic and Genealogical Society** Herodoteans **Hillwalking Club** Hindu Cultural Society **Hispanic Society** Hockey Club **Hong Kong and China Affairs Society** The Humanitarian **Centre Hungarian Society** Ice Hockey **India Society** Indian Classical Arts Society **Innovation Forum** Intercollegiate Christian Union **Cambridge International Student Film Festival** International Studies Association **Investment Banking Society** Islamic Society **Israel Society** Italian Society **Japanese Interdisciplinary Forum** Jazz Orchestra Society **Jewish Society** Judo Club **Jugglers' Association** Karate Club **Kazakh Society** Kendo Society **Kenya Education Partnerships** Korean Society **Korfball Club** Labour Club **Lacrosse Club** Law Society **Lawn Tennis Club** Cambridge Libertarians **Life Saving Club** Light Entertainment Society **Lightweight Rowing Club** Lion Dance Troupe **Lithuanian Society** Makespace **Society** **Malaysia & Singapore Association** Marlowe Society **Massage Society** Medics Revue **Mexican Society** Middle Temple Society **Mixed Martial Arts** Model United Nations **Modern Pentathlon Club** Mountaineering Club **Cambridge Muse Society** Musical Society **Musical Theatre Society** Nature Society **Netball Club** Nigeria Society **Olympic Gymnastics Club** Opera Society **Orchestra on the Hill** Oriental Dance Association **Orienteering Club** Orthodox Society **The Ospreys** Persian Society **Pescatarian and Vegetarian Society** Philharmonic Orchestra **Planting Promise** Polish Society **Political Forum** Pool Club **Portuguese Speakers Society** Powerlifting Club **Quiz Society** Rackets Club **Raja Yoga Society** Rambling Club **Real Ale Society** Real Estate Finance and Investment Society **Real Tennis Club** Recorder Ensemble **Revelation Rock Gospel Choir** Revolver & Pistol Club **Riding Club** Rifle Association **Rock Society** Role-Playing Society **Romanian Society** English Country Dancing Club **Rugby Club** Rugby Union Club **Kickboxing & Cane Fighting Society** Scandinavian Society **Science Fiction Society** Scout & Guide Club **Ski and Snowboarding Club** Slovenian Society **Somali Society** South African Society **Liberal Democrats** Pugwash Society **Surfing Association** Swimming & Waterpolo Club **Swiss Society** Table Tennis Club **Tae Kwon Do** Taiwanese Society **Tamil Society** Tap and Jazz Dance Society **Tea Society** Turkish Society **Union Society** Uzbekistan Society **Vietna** **Zero Carbon Society** Spaceflight Society...and more!

# Other Leisure Activities

- You aren't just stuck in the university all day!
- Shops, restaurants, bars, pubs, clubs, coffee shops, cinemas...
- Socialising with friends
- Going away – visiting other cities, going home
- Or you can just relax in your room/house – read, watch TV, videogames, Instagram etc.



# What are Top Universities looking for?

✓ **Academic  
ability and  
potential**

✓ **Subject  
requirements**

✓ **Genuine subject  
interest**  
– motivation and  
enthusiasm

✓ **Suitability  
for chosen  
course**



✗ **Particular  
school types**

✗ **Particular  
backgrounds**

✗ **Irrelevant extra-  
curricular  
activities**

# The cost of studying in Oxford or Cambridge?

- College-owned accommodation
- Short terms
- Long holidays for paid employment
- Subsidised catering on offer
- Extensive libraries and book grants
- No/low travel costs within the city
- Cambridge/Oxford Bursaries
- Reduced tuition fees (Oxford)
- Hardship grants
- College prizes and scholarships



# Choosing a course

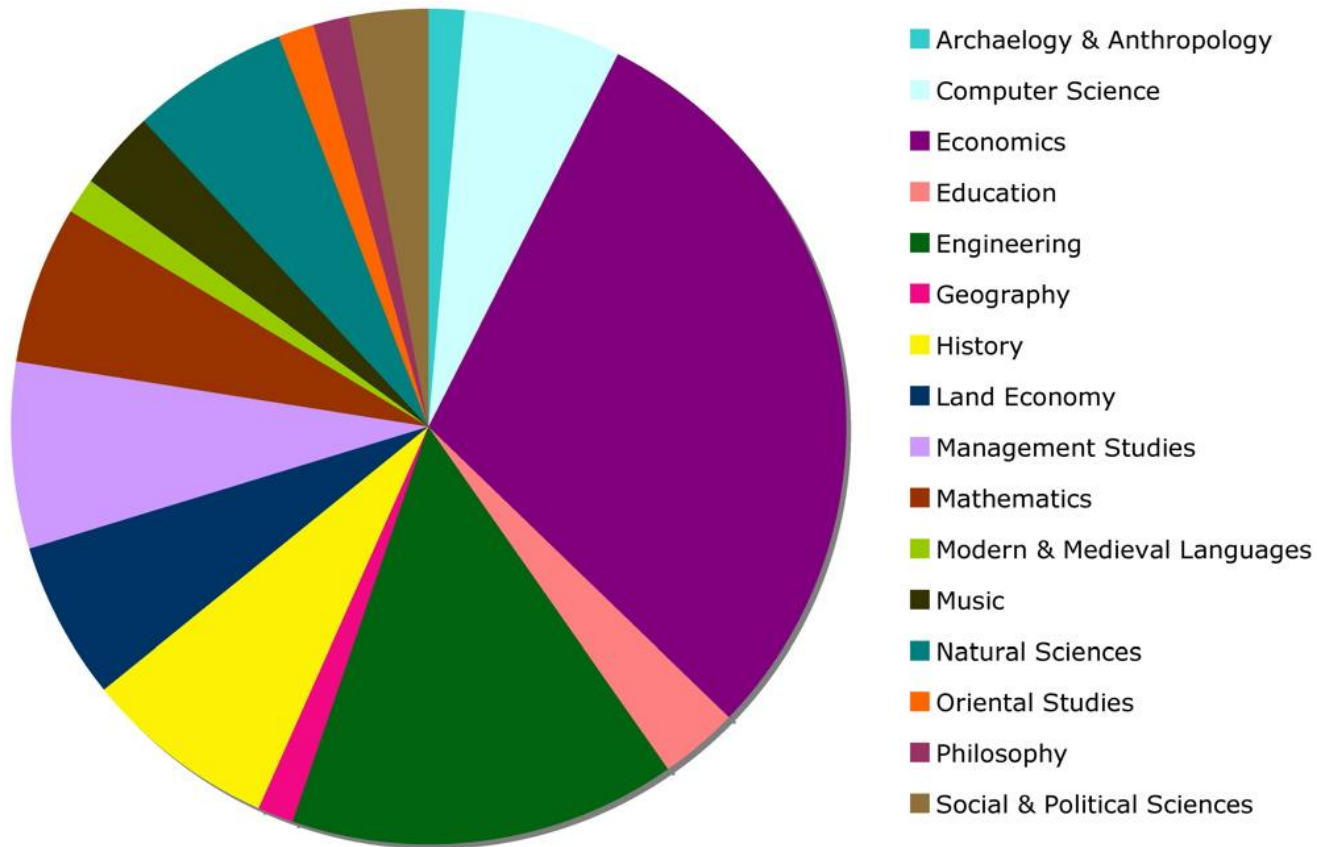
**How would you do it?**

# Choosing a course

- What are you enthusiastic about?
- Assessment method: modular exams, coursework or final exams?
- Broad or narrow range?
- ‘Traditional’ or new?
- Do you meet the subject requirements?
- Think beyond the obvious
- Some courses may be required for a specific career – e.g. medicine, architecture, veterinary medicine, engineering



# Think you need Economics to work in a bank?



# Quiz – what did they study at Cambridge?

1. Head of policing for the UK airports authority
2. Journalist for the Financial Times
3. Producer of BBC documentaries
4. Investment banker
5. Pilot with BA
6. Civil servant with the EU in Brussels
7. Community outreach worker

**MUSIC**

# What do you want from your university course?

- Spend five minutes chatting to the person next to you about the type of course you would like to study

Favourite  
subject?

Assessment  
method?

Broad?  
Narrow?

Traditional?  
New?

Career-  
focused?

## Feedback?

# Put your hand up if you know...

What my favourite subject is

I know...

What subject I would like to study at  
university

# I know...

What job or career I would like  
in the future



# I know...

What A Levels I need to take to  
study my chosen university subject

# I know...

What A Levels I can take to keep my  
options open

# I know...

**At this stage, it's absolutely fine not to know**

- The exact subject/course you'd like to study at university
- The job or career you'd like to have in the future

**However, it is important for you to know**

- If you know what course you'd like to study, which A Levels are required
- If you don't know what course you'd like to study, which A Levels you can take to keep your options open

# Why is A Level choice important?

- A Level choices have a significant impact on university course options available to you
- Inappropriate choices might restrict your options later, and reduce your chances of getting a place on the right course for you
- Admissions Tutors often prefer applicants to have taken particular subjects, or combinations of subjects, as these provide the best preparation for their courses

# Choosing A-Levels

Which of these combinations of A Levels would allow you to study the courses below at Top Universities?

Maths  
Physics  
Chemistry

Chemistry  
Physics  
Biology

Biology  
History  
Art

English Literature  
French  
Economics

Medicine

Economics

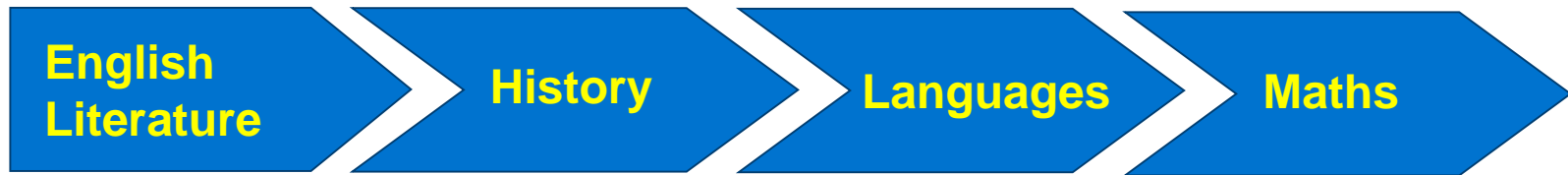
Law

Physics

English

# A Level Options

If you are interested in arts/social sciences...



If you are interested in arts/social sciences...





# Want to keep your options open?

Arts and Social Sciences Courses: Two AS/A Levels in Arts and Two in Maths/Sciences will be fine

For Science-based Courses it's a little trickier – but you are still likely to find Science courses you can apply for, especially if you pair your sciences like this:

**Biology with Chemistry** (for biological/medical sciences)

**Chemistry with Maths or Physics** (for chemistry-based courses)

**Maths with Further Maths or Physics** (for maths/physics based courses)

Check out the Subject Matters section of the University of Cambridge website

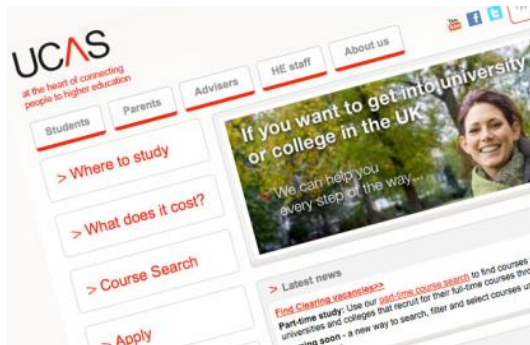
# Recap

**What are Admissions Tutors at top universities looking for?**

**Why is your A Level choice important?**

# What can you do now?

- Work hard to achieve the best GCSE grades you can
- Find out more about the different university courses available to you
- Explore your favourite subjects (and even some new ones!) outside of school



# Questions?



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