



NELSON & COLNE  
COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM

# A Level Guide

The number one FE college  
in Lancashire for A Levels

# A Levels.

## 2019 A Level Results

**99%** overall pass rate

**46%** achieved at least 1 A\*-A

**79%** achieved at least 1 A\*-B

**93%** achieved at least 1 A\*-C

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# A Level Guide

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## Your subject guide to studying A Levels at Nelson and Colne College

Choosing the right A Level subjects for your future can be a difficult decision. To help you with this, you should have in mind a career goal. Some universities require specific grades and A Level subjects for entry onto particular degree pathways, so it's important to do your research.

In this A Level Guide, you will find further information about which subject choices work well together for particular career routes – NCC has over 25 subjects to choose from, covering Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Creative Arts and Media, Sciences and Mathematics.

Former students have studied a range of highly competitive degree courses at top universities, including Russell Group institutions such as Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Manchester, Leeds, Warwick and York, and have gone on to enjoy rewarding careers and professions in Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Journalism, Digital Media, Teaching, Computer Science, Law and Politics, to name a few!

We hope you find this Guide useful in making those important decisions for your next steps towards your future career.







**Number one in the  
country for 16-18  
learner achievement**

**Number one in  
Lancashire for  
Student Satisfaction**

**Number one in  
Lancashire for  
A Levels**

**99%**

**A Level Pass Rate**

A Level



Business  
Route

BUSINESS ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Core Subjects:



Business

Plus a choice of:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French/German/Spanish
- Government and Politics
- History
- Law
- Statistics
- Sociology

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.

IN 2017  
THERE WERE  
**5.7 MILLION**  
PRIVATE SECTOR  
BUSINESSES IN THE  
UK, UP BY 197,000  
OR 4%

FINANCE  
MANAGERS  
AND DIRECTORS  
COULD EARN  
BETWEEN **£50,000**  
AND **£100,000**  
A YEAR

GOVERNMENT  
START-UP  
**BUSINESS LOANS**  
ARE AVAILABLE FOR  
ENTREPRENEURS



## Study Skills (EPQ)

The **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** is a largely self-directed research project into a topic of your choice. Students will develop their study skills as they plan, research and develop their idea, creating either a research assignment, a product or an activity (e.g. an event) as their final piece. The EPQ may also count towards UCAS points.



## Extracurricular Opportunities

Guest speakers, work experience, A Level Conference Day, Enterprise Programme and Debating Club and a unique Pre-Professional Programme in Business.

Students may be able to take an enterprise qualification instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

Marketing	Human Resources	Specialist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing Executive</li> <li>Brand Developer</li> <li>Digital Specialist</li> <li>Market Researcher</li> <li>Communication Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HR Manager</li> <li>Business Advisor/Consultant</li> <li>HR Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountant</li> <li>Marketing Executive</li> <li>Brand Developer</li> <li>Digital Specialist</li> <li>Entrepreneur</li> <li>Solicitor (Law required)</li> </ul>

## Popular universities for these pathways...

UNIVERSITY of York





A Level



Creative Arts  
Route

## CREATIVE ARTS ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

### Core Subjects:



Fashion and Textiles



Photography



Fine Art

Choosing at least two of the core subjects is recommended

### Plus a choice of:

- French/German/Spanish
- English Literature
- English Language
- Film Studies
- History
- Psychology
- Physics and Mathematics\*
- Business Studies
- Geography
- Media Studies
- Graphic Design

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.

\*If wanting to pursue a career in Architecture.

43,000  
WORKERS ARE  
**REQUIRED**  
IN THE CREATIVE ARTS  
**SECTOR**  
BY 2023

ONE IN SIX  
OF ALL UK GRADUATE  
**JOBS IS A**  
CREATIVE ROLE

ONE IN 11  
OF ALL UK JOBS  
IS NOW IN THE  
**CREATIVE**  
INDUSTRY





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## Extracurricular Opportunities

Development of PC/Mac skills, photography, Adobe Creative Suite skills and work experience opportunities and a unique Pre-Professional Programme in Journalism.

Students may be able to take an enterprise qualification instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

### Art and Design

- Fine Artist/Sculptor
- Art Gallery Curator
- Art Director
- Animator
- Product Designer
- Set Designer
- Printmaker

### Fashion and Interior

- Fashion Designer
- Costume Designer
- Architect
- Interior Designer
- Visual Merchandiser
- Furniture Designer

### Photography

- Fashion Photographer
- Forensic Photographer
- Photojournalist
- Advertising
- Medical Photographer
- Studio Photographer
- Multimedia Journalist

## Popular universities for these pathways...



A Level



Design and  
Media Route

DESIGN AND MEDIA ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Core Subjects:



Media Studies



Graphic Design



Photography



Film Studies

Choosing at least two of the core subjects is recommended

Plus a choice of:

- Fine Art
- Business Studies
- English Literature
- English Language

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.



**THE UK'S**  
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
CONTRIBUTE £71 BILLION  
TO THE NATIONAL  
ECONOMY

**SENIOR**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS  
EARN BETWEEN  
**£32,000 AND**  
**£50,000**  
A YEAR

**ONE IN SIX**  
OF ALL UK GRADUATE  
**JOBS IS A**  
CREATIVE ROLE



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The **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** is a largely self-directed research project into a topic of your choice. Students will develop their study skills as they plan, research and develop their idea, creating either a research assignment, a product or an activity (e.g. an event) as their final piece. The EPQ may also count towards UCAS points.



## Extracurricular Opportunities

Development of PC/Mac skills, photography, Adobe Creative Suite skills and work experience opportunities and a unique Pre-Professional Programme in Journalism.

Students may be able to take an enterprise qualification instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

Marketing	Film and TV	Digital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advertiser</li> <li>▪ Brand Developer</li> <li>▪ Graphic Designer</li> <li>▪ Web Designer</li> <li>▪ Journalist or PR Officer</li> <li>▪ Agency Account Manager</li> <li>▪ Creative Director</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Media Researcher</li> <li>▪ TV Production Crew</li> <li>▪ Radio Producer</li> <li>▪ Cinematographer</li> <li>▪ Location Manager</li> <li>▪ Games Designer</li> <li>▪ Film Editor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Animator</li> <li>▪ Motion Graphic Artist</li> <li>▪ Special Effects Artist</li> <li>▪ Brand Designer</li> <li>▪ Graphic Designer</li> <li>▪ Web Designer</li> <li>▪ Illustrator</li> </ul>

## Popular universities for these pathways...



A Level



English and  
Writing Route

ENGLISH AND WRITING ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Core Subjects:



English Language



English Literature

Plus a choice of:

- Graphic Design
- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Government and Politics
- Ancient History
- Sociology
- Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
- French/German/Spanish
- History

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.

**COPY-EDITORS**  
CAN EARN A MINIMUM  
**OF £28.30**  
AN HOUR

**NQTS IN**  
ENGLAND AND WALES  
**START ON A**  
SALARY FROM  
**£22,023**

**THE BBC**  
EMPLOYS 20,000  
PEOPLE IN A WIDE  
VARIETY OF WRITING,  
ACTING AND  
SUPPORT  
ROLES





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## Extracurricular Opportunities

Unique Pre-Professional Programmes in Journalism and Law, work experience, A Level Conference Day and student magazine.

### Example career pathways:

#### Creative Writing

- Copywriter
- Advertiser
- Marketeer
- Fiction Writer
- Author
- Screen Writer

#### Journalism

- Sports Journalist
- TV and Media Reporter
- Digital Media Broadcaster
- Political Journalist
- Presenter
- PR Officer

#### Publishing

- Editor
- Book Publisher
- Writer
- Teacher

### Popular universities for these pathways...





Humanities  
Route

## HUMANITIES ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

### Core Subjects:



History



Government  
and Politics



Philosophy, Ethics  
and Religion

Choosing at least two of the core subjects is recommended

### Plus a choice of:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Geography
- French/German/  
Spanish
- Ancient History
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Law

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.

IT IS LIKELY YOU  
COULD EARN OVER  
**£45,000**  
AFTER 4-5 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
AS A POLITICAL  
RESEARCHER

HISTORY IS  
RANKED AS ONE  
OF THE TOP 10  
MOST EMPLOYABLE  
DEGREES BY THE  
DAILY TELEGRAPH

A BRIGADIER  
IN THE  
ARMY CAN  
EARN A  
SALARY OF  
£104,000



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## Extracurricular Opportunities

Unique Pre-Professional Programmes in Law and Teaching, guest speakers, work experience, A Level Conference Day and Debating Club.

### Example career pathways:

#### Government

- Civil Servant
- Intelligence Specialist
- Political Researcher
- Local Government Officer
- Council Worker
- Politician
- European Union Rep

#### Specialist

- Barrister (Law required)
- Solicitor (Law required)
- Journalist
- Cleric
- Teacher
- Business Management
- Financial Specialist

#### Uniformed Services

- The Armed Forces
- Police Officer
- Firefighter

### Popular universities for these pathways...





## LEGAL ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

### Core Subjects:



## Law

### Plus a choice of:

- Criminology
- English Literature
- English Language
- History
- Business Studies
- Mathematics
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Government and Politics
- French/German/ Spanish

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.



THERE ARE AN  
**ESTIMATED  
300,000**  
PARALEGALS IN  
ENGLAND AND  
WALES

**LAW FIRMS  
ARE OFFERING  
AN AVERAGE STARTING  
SALARY OF  
£39,000**

THERE ARE MORE THAN  
**80,000 SOLICITORS  
WORKING IN PRIVATE  
PRACTICE IN ENGLAND  
AND WALES**



## Study Skills (EPQ)

The **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** is a largely self-directed research project into a topic of your choice. Students will develop their study skills as they plan, research and develop their idea, creating either a research assignment, a product or an activity (e.g. an event) as their final piece. The EPQ may also count towards UCAS points.



## Extracurricular Opportunities

Unique Pre-Professional Programme in Law, guest speakers, work experience, A Level Conference Day, Enterprise Programme and Debating Club.

### Example career pathways:

#### Legal

- Barrister
- Chartered Legal Executive
- Paralegal
- Legal Executive
- Legal Secretary

#### Social

- Probation Officer
- Police Officer
- Prison Officer
- Youth Worker

### Popular universities for these pathways...



A Level



## SOCIAL SCIENCES ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

### Core Subjects:



Sociology



Psychology

### Plus a choice of:

- Criminology
- History
- Mathematics
- Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
- Biology
- Law
- Geography
- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- English Literature
- English Language
- Government and Politics

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.



**SPEECH  
AND LANGUAGE  
THERAPISTS IN THE  
NHS GENERALLY START  
FROM **£21,000**  
PER YEAR**

**CLINICAL  
PSYCHOLOGISTS  
TEND TO WORK WITH ONE  
PARTICULAR CLIENT  
GROUP SUCH AS  
CHILDREN OR PEOPLE  
WITH LEARNING  
DISABILITIES**

**50%  
OF ALL  
SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES  
GO INTO PROFESSIONAL OR  
MANAGERIAL  
ROLES**



## Study Skills (EPQ)

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## Extracurricular Opportunities

Unique Pre-Professional Programme in Teaching, A Level Conference Day, guest speakers and work experience.

Students may be able to take a free-standing Mathematics Qualification/Core Mathematics instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

### Social Care and Welfare

- Social Worker
- Psychologist
- Teacher
- Police Officer

### Health Care

- Speech Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Nurse
- Psychiatrist
- Psychotherapist
- Clinical Psychiatrist

## Popular universities for these pathways...



A Level



Earth  
Sciences  
Route

EARTH SCIENCES ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Core Subjects:



Geography

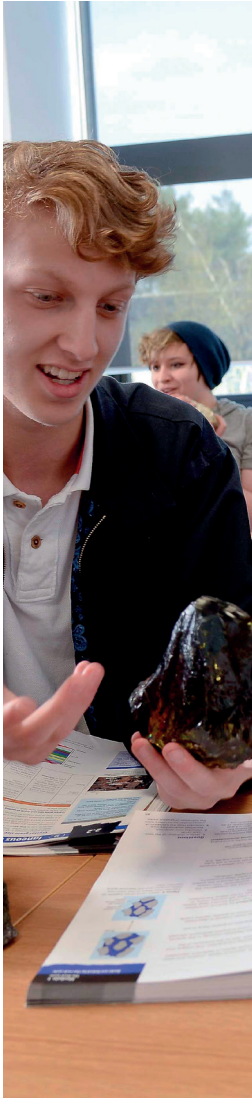


Geology

Plus a choice of:

- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business Studies
- English Language
- Computer Science
- Government and Politics

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.



**THE UK'S  
ENERGY AND UTILITY  
WORKFORCE NEEDS  
200,000 NEW RECRUITS  
BY 2023**

**74%  
OF GEOGRAPHY  
GRADUATES EARN A  
STARTING SALARY  
OF £20K OR  
MORE**

**80  
UNIVERSITIES  
OFFER GEOGRAPHY  
WITH OVER 1,400  
GEOGRAPHY  
RELATED DEGREES**





## Study Skills (EPQ)

The **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** is a largely self-directed research project into a topic of your choice. Students will develop their study skills as they plan, research and develop their idea, creating either a research assignment, a product or an activity (e.g. an event) as their final piece. The EPQ may also count towards UCAS points.



## Extracurricular Opportunities

Residential trips, A Level Conference Day, conservation watch research projects and guest speakers.

Students may be able to take a free-standing Mathematics Qualification/Core Mathematics instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

### Environment / Sustainability

- Marine Biologist
- Conservation Specialist
- Pollutions Analyst
- Environmental Health Officer
- Urban/Town Planner
- Architect
- Surveyor

### Physical Systems

- Seismologist
- Volcanologist
- Glaciologist

### Geographical

- Working with Geog-info Systems (GIS)
- Oceanographer
- Cartographer

## Popular universities for these pathways...



A Level



Maths, Physics  
and Computer  
Science Route

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND  
COMPUTER SCIENCE ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Core Subjects:



Mathematics



Physics



Computer Science



Statistics

Choosing at least two of the core subjects is recommended

Plus a choice of:

- Further Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Statistics
- Business Studies
- Geology
- Geography
- French/German/  
Spanish
- Psychology

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.

AIRBUS  
FORECASTS THE  
AVIATION INDUSTRY  
WILL NEED **34,900**  
NEW AIRCRAFT BY  
2036

**637,000** PEOPLE  
ARE DIRECTLY OR  
INDIRECTLY  
EMPLOYED IN THE  
ENERGY INDUSTRY  
ACROSS THE UK

COMPUTER  
SCIENCE GRADUATES  
EARN ON AVERAGE  
**£43,895**  
SIX MONTHS AFTER  
GRADUATING





## Study Skills (EPQ)

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## Extracurricular Opportunities

Robotics workshop, stretch and challenge Mathematics activities, work experience opportunities, A Level Conference Day, ICT support and 'Physics Extra' workshops.

Students may be able to take a **free-standing Mathematics Qualification/Core Mathematics** instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

### Computer Science

- Solution/Systems Architect
- Working in Artificial Intelligence
- Data Scientist

### Financial

- Accountant
- Actuary
- Banker
- Financial Director / Manager

### Physics

- Medical Physicist
- Particle Physicist
- Nuclear Physicist

### Engineering

- Chemical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Electrical Engineer

## Popular universities for these pathways...



A Level



Medical  
Route

MEDICAL ROUTE

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Core Subjects:



Biology



Chemistry

Plus a choice of:

- Physics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Geology
- Geography
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Sociology

These subjects are recommended, however other subject options are also available.



THE AVERAGE  
**ANNUAL PAY**  
FOR A MEDICAL  
PRACTITIONER  
AGED 25-34 IS  
**£58,682**

BY 2022  
**THE UK**  
WILL NEED AN  
ESTIMATED 36,205  
MORE MEDICAL  
PRACTITIONERS

**THE UK**  
IS A LEADING  
LIFE SCIENCES  
**PRODUCER**  
AND EXPORTER  
(HEALTHCARE)



## Study Skills (EPQ)

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## Extracurricular Opportunities

Unique Pre-Professional Programmes in Medicine and STEMx, first aid at work qualification, 'Heart Start' training, work experience, volunteering opportunities, or becoming a reading/peer/school mentor.

Students may be able to take a free-standing Mathematics Qualification/Core Mathematics instead of the EPQ, where appropriate.

## Example career pathways:

Lab-based	Patient Based (Human or Animal)	Tech-based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Biochemistry Scientist</li> <li>▪ Biomedical Scientist</li> <li>▪ Ecologist</li> <li>▪ Microbiologist</li> <li>▪ Scientist in Dietetics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Doctor</li> <li>▪ Dentist</li> <li>▪ Nurse</li> <li>▪ Healthcare Scientist</li> <li>▪ Clinical Scientist</li> <li>▪ Pharmacist</li> <li>▪ Animal/Veterinary Scientist</li> <li>▪ Zoologist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neuroscientist</li> <li>▪ Physiotherapist</li> <li>▪ Biomedical Engineer</li> <li>▪ Radiographer</li> <li>▪ Audiologist</li> </ul>

## Popular universities for these pathways...



# A Level Entry Requirements

COURSE	ENTRY CRITERIA
	(Students will be expected to have a minimum of two 5/Bs plus three 4/Cs, to include English Language and Maths in addition to the following:)
Ancient History	No subject specific grade criteria
Biology	Two 5/B in combined science or 5/B in Biology and one other separate science GCSE
Business	No subject specific grade criteria
Chemistry	Maths at grade 5/B as well as two 5/B in combined science or 5/B in Chemistry and one other separate science GCSE
Computer Science	Maths at grade 5/B or above
Criminology (Level 3 Diploma)	No subject specific grade criteria
English Language and Linguistics	No subject specific grade criteria
English Literature	English Literature at grade 4/C or above
Fashion and Textiles	English Language and Maths at grade 4/C or above and an art related subject at grade 4/C or above, plus a portfolio of work**
Film Studies	No subject specific grade criteria
Fine Art	An art related subject at grade 4/C or above, plus a portfolio of work**
French	French at grade 5/B or above
Further Mathematics	Maths at grade 7/A or above
German	German at grade 5/B or above
Geography	Geography at grade 5/B or above
Geology	Two 5/Bs in combined science or two from separate sciences GCSE
Government and Politics	No subject specific grade criteria
Graphic Design	An art related subject at grade 4/C or above, plus a portfolio of work**
History	No subject specific grade criteria
Law	Three 5/Bs overall
Mathematics	Maths at grade 6/B or above
Media Studies	No subject specific grade criteria
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	No subject specific grade criteria
Photography	An art related subject at grade 4/C or above, plus a portfolio of work**
Physics	Maths at grade 5/B as well as two 5/B in combined science or 5/B in Physics and one other separate science GCSE
Psychology	Science at grade C/4 or above
Sociology	No subject specific grade criteria
Spanish	Spanish at grade 5/B or above
Statistics	Maths at grade 5/B or above

\*\*Applicants without a GCSE in an art related subject but a keen interest in their chosen subject will be considered at interview.

# What Next?

## Step 1



### Apply

Apply to Nelson and Colne College online at [www.nelson.ac.uk](http://www.nelson.ac.uk) it's quick, easy and secure.

Application forms are also available on request. Don't leave it too late as our courses fill up fast!

## Step 2



### Attend your Interview

Once you've submitted your application you'll receive an acknowledgement and be invited to an interview with a course tutor.

## Step 3



### Conditional Offer

Following your interview you will be made a conditional offer. This means that you have a guaranteed place as long as you achieve the required GCSE grades you need for your course.

Don't worry if you don't get the grades you hoped for, we will have an alternative suitable course to help you get back on track.

## Step 4



### GCSE Results and Enrolment

In July you will receive details about the enrolment date for your course and what to bring with you.

Once you have received your results, come into College to enrol and pick up all the information you need to start in September.

Nelson & Colne College  
Scotland Road  
Nelson  
Lancashire  
BB9 7YT

Part of the



✉ [admissions@nelson.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@nelson.ac.uk) ☎ 01282 440 272 🌐 [www.nelson.ac.uk](http://www.nelson.ac.uk)

