

GORDON'S SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE CRITERIA

ALL SUBJECTS ARE OFFERED ON AN UNDERSTANDING THAT CLASSES CONTAIN A VIABLE NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Entry 2025/2026		Minimum Entry Requirements: Five GCSE grades 9 – 5 including Grade 5 in English & Mathematics for any A level course
Subject	Notes	The expected entry criteria for each subject is shown below:
Art *	If destination is Architecture, Art typically is taken with Mathematics and/or Physics.	GCSE grade 6 in Art or Photography.
Biology	Needed for some Sports Science subjects at University. Highly recommended for Medicine. Strongly recommended that students have a GCSE English and Mathematics grade 6.	GCSE grade 7 -7 in Combined Science, or grade 7 in Biology and grade 6 in Chemistry if Separate Sciences studied.
Business		GCSE grade 6 in Business or Distinction in BTEC Enterprise (Business) if studied. If not studied, grade 5 in English and Mathematics.
Chemistry	Required for Medicine. Complements A Level Biology strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry or 7-7 in Combined Science.
Computer Science	Strongly recommended to be taken with Mathematics.	GCSE grade 6 in Computer Science if studied. If not studied, grade 5 in English, and a GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required.
Drama & Theatre Studies *	If no GCSE in Drama, previous drama experience strongly recommended.	GCSE grade 6 in Drama if studied. If not studied, GCSE grade 5 in English is required.
Design & Technology *	Strongly advisable to those wishing to study Engineering, Architecture, Product/Graphic Design and aligns well with Arts or STEM subjects. Strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 6 in Technology if studied. If not studied, grade 5 in English and Mathematics.
Economics		GCSE grade 6 in Economics if studied, and GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics. If not studied, grade 5 in English and grade 6 in Mathematics.
English Language		GCSE grade 6 in English Language.
English Literature		GCSE grade 6 in English Literature and grade 6 English Language.
French	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in French.
German	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in German.
Geography	Biology usually needed if planning to study Geology at University.	GCSE grade 6 in Geography and grade 6 in Mathematics.
History		GCSE grade 6 in History and grade 6 in English Literature.
Mathematics	Mathematics is required for Physics or Engineering. Further Mathematics also needed if Mathematics to be studied at a Russell Group University.	GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics
Further Mathematics		GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics & must study A Level Mathematics over two years.
Media *		GCSE grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature.
Music	Mathematics needed to study Music Technology at some Universities.	GCSE grade 6 in Music plus minimum grade 5 instrumental/vocal. If a student has not studied Music, then a Grade 5 Instrumental/vocal (any board) and Grade 5 Theory (ABRSM) is required.
Physical Education *	30% of the final A Level grade is practical. Students should be regularly competing at school 1st team standard. If subject studied at GCSE and a grade lower than 5 is achieved, the alternative entry requirements will not be considered.	GCSE grade 6 in Physical Education, or grade 5 in English and grade 5 in Biology GCSE, or 5-5 in Combined Science GCSE.
Physics	Both Mathematics & Physics needed for Physics or Engineering at most Universities.	GCSE grade 7 in Physics or 7-7 in Combined science and a GCSE grade 7 in Maths. A level Physics must be accompanied by Mathematics in Year 12.
Photography		GCSE grade 6 in Art or Photography.
Psychology	Strongly recommended to be taken with other science subject(s) as some Psychology degrees ask for this.	A GCSE grade 6 in Maths and grade 6 in Biology, or grades 6-6 if double sciences studied, and a grade 5 in English.
Sociology *		GCSE grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature.
Spanish	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.
Other Level 3 courses on offer: Single BTEC Courses unless stated		Minimum Entry Requirements: Five GCSE grades 9 – 4 including Grade 4 in English & Mathematics for any BTEC course
Business (BTEC) Level 3 Extended Certificate	Please note, this subject has a high maths content. Equivalent to 1 A level	GCSE grade 4 in English and Mathematics are required. Where Business Enterprise level 2 is studied, a Merit is required.
Diploma in Sport (BTEC) Level 3	Double BTEC course, equivalent to 2 A levels	GCSE grade 4 in English and Mathematics are required.
Supporting information:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For the sciences, IGCSE Single Award Science (or CIE IGCSE Cambridge Combined Science) is not part of the minimum entry requirement. In terms of access to A Level courses, IGCSE qualifications are considered equal to ordinary GCSE qualifications. Students taking IGCSE Double Award Science require a grade AA or 7-7 to access any of the three sciences and require a grade BB to access Psychology. Russell Group facilitating subjects are: Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, History, Geography, Modern and Classical Languages and English Literature. Students are advised to research this area before selecting A Level courses. * Consider accompanying these subjects with facilitating subjects when applying to Russell Group Universities. 		