

QUESTIONS?
TWEET US!

@NewCollegeStamf



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I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO STUDY

A Levels are sometimes chosen as a way to 'keep your options open' with a little more flexibility as you will study 3 different subjects. However, though it might seem fun to study chemistry, history and media, realistically what type of career would require this mix of knowledge and skills?

As an alternative, diplomas are great if you want to study through practical, hands-on learning, and

with over 30 course areas there is something for everyone!

We can support you to choose subjects that complement each other to benefit applications for university and future employment. Visit an open event or book a College tour via our website to get more advice.

FIND MY COURSE QUESTIONNAIRE

You can use our "Find My Course" questionnaire on our homepage which will help find the right course for you in under 60 seconds.

You just need to answer three simple questions about your study preferences, interests and predicted grades and we can suggest courses that might suit you.

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A LEVELS

VS

DIPLOMAS

Your pocket guide to the most commonly asked questions about the differences between studying A Levels and Diplomas at New College Stamford

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DIPLOMAS ARE...

- Equivalent to A Levels
- Accepted by 95% of universities
- Practical qualifications that relate to a particular profession or technical skill
- Designed to prepare you for employment and develop your employability skills
- Valued by employers as they provide the knowledge and experience which makes you readily employable
- Designed to teach you the technical skills you need in real-life, with the equipment you would typically find in the workplace
- Perfect If you feel like you have outgrown school and prefer a hands-on approach to learning

DURATION: 2 Years SUBJECTS STUDIED: 1

TYPICAL DAYS AT COLLEGE: 3-4 LEVEL: 3

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: 5 GCSEs at grades 4/C or above including English and maths.

A LEVELS ARE...

- Traditional academic qualifications
- Typically taught in the classroom
- Designed to give you a broad knowledge base
- Theory and exam-based subjects
- Approached in a modern way at New College Stamford with practical elements, live projects and community work.
- Recommended for those looking to access the Aim Higher programme for support with specialist university applications such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and law.

DURATION: 2 Years SUBJECTS STUDIED: 3

TYPICAL DAYS AT COLLEGE: 4-5 LEVEL: 3

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: 5 GCSEs at grades 5/C or above including English and maths and typically a 6/B in a subject relevant to the A Level applied for.

IT'S A COMMON MISCONCEPTION THAT ONLY A LEVELS CAN TAKE YOU TO UNIVERSITY

Diplomas are just as valuable and offer another route to university. **95% of UK universities accept students with Diploma qualifications.**

While A Levels are graded A*-E, Diplomas are awarded with Pass (P), Merit (M), Distinction (D) or Distinction Star (D*). These grades are equivalent in terms of UCAS Tariff Points. In fact, some university admissions place a higher value on the skills, experiences and confidence you develop whilst studying a Diploma.

Some students choose to study a Subsidiary Diploma (equivalent to one A Level) or a Diploma (equivalent to 2 A Levels) alongside additional academic subjects to help with university applications. However, studying these subjects is at the discretion of your lecturer.

DO I NEED TO TAKE EXAMS?

A Levels are usually assessed by a series of examinations and coursework with the majority taken at the end of the year. First year grades will no longer shape your final A Level grades which mean that your Year 2 grades determine everything. If you confidently work well under pressure and thrive in an exam environment then A Levels could be for you.

Diplomas involve a series of assignments which can be written or activity based and are spread out throughout the year. This way, you spread out the work which shapes your final grade, relieving yourself from exam pressure and helping you keep track of your progress.