

## Are you up for the challenge: how much do you know about all the available HE options post Sixth Form?

1. **What does the abbreviation HE stand for?** - Higher Education, includes any study after secondary and further education, the continuation of study post the age of 18.
2. **How many Russell Group Universities are there?** - 24
3. **What do Russell Group Universities have in common?** - They are all world-class, research-intensive universities; they produce more than two-thirds of the world-leading research produced in UK universities.
4. **Name all the Russell Group Universities** - 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, London School of Economics and Political Science, 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.
5. **What does 'Oxbridge' stand for?** - Oxford and Cambridge universities regarded together
6. **What does 'UCAS' stand for?** - Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.
7. **How many courses can you apply for via UCAS?** - You can choose a maximum of five courses on your UCAS application, which means you can apply for five courses at only one university or college, or a different course at five different universities and colleges
8. **Can you apply for more than one course at the same university?** - In short yes; most universities will be happy with you applying to more than one course, but it's your personal statement that will probably be the key.
9. **What are the names given to the final UCAS choices?** - Firm and Insurance
10. **What does the term 'Red Brick Universities' mean?** - A term originally used to refer to nine civic universities founded in the major industrial cities of England in the 19th century and it is sometimes used more broadly to refer to British universities founded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in major cities
11. **What is a 'Campus University'?** - A university where everything is in one place; the lecture theatres, halls of residence, libraries and admin buildings
12. **What is an undergraduate?** An undergraduate is a term used to describe someone who is studying an undergraduate degree. This means a degree that is studied below a postgraduate or Masters Degree.
13. **What is a postgraduate?** A postgraduate is someone who is studying a higher form of education after graduating from university. They will be studying anything like a Master's degree or a Doctorate.
14. **What is a 'sandwich course'?** - A four-year degree course where you spend one year on a work experience placement in between studying

15. **What is a Foundation degree?** Short degree courses which are roughly equivalent to two thirds of an honours degree, and can be completed in two years of full time study. As you can easily 'top up' your foundation degree and turn it into a full honours degree with just an extra year's study, they're a good choice if you're unsure about your subject and want to 'test' it out before committing to a full three years.
16. **What is a Bachelor's degree?** Bachelor's degree is the most common type of undergraduate degree - and can be studied straight after finishing higher education. It's classed as a level 6 qualification. A Bachelor's degree will usually last three to four years if studied full-time.
17. **What is an Honours Degree?** A degree with honours, or an honours degree, often seen as BA (hons) or BSc (hons) is a standard three-year degree worth 360 credits, including a dissertation or special project in the final year of study. This is opposed to an ordinary BA or BSc, which is comprised of 300 credits and omits the dissertation or special project.
18. **What is a Combined Honours degree?** A combined or joint honours degree lets you study two or even three subjects combined as part of a standard three-year undergraduate degree.
19. **What are the degree classifications?** First-Class Honours (First), Upper Second-Class Honours (2.1), Lower Second-Class Honours (2.2), Third-Class Honours (2.3), Ordinary Degree
20. **What is a Master's degree?** A Masters degree is a level 7 qualification - above Bachelors degrees but below PhDs. Study is intense and typically involves completing a series of modules and writing a dissertation. They can take an extra one or two years to complete. There are some undergraduate degrees that have a master's year built in at the end, so you study uninterrupted for four years instead of three and graduate with an 'MA' (Master of Arts), 'MSc' (Master of Sciences) etc.
21. **What is a PhD?** A PhD is the highest level of degree (level 8). It involves independent and original research into a specific field or subject - which is used to write a lengthy thesis that's worthy of publication.
22. **What is 'clearing'?** - Run by UCAS, this places students who don't have a university place, or who didn't get the qualifications needed to study their subject, into a more suitable university or on another course.
23. **What is 'Freshers' week'?** - The first week of the first year at university, before teaching starts.
24. **What does the abbreviation 'LMI' stand for?** - Labour Market Information
25. **What is LMI?** - Labour Market Information tells you about the workplace or labour market. LMI describes the condition of the labour market, past and present, as well as future projections. It makes clear where work opportunities are increasing or decreasing and what occupations exist.
26. **Where can you find LMI on various careers?** - There are lots of websites that use official LMI data including [LMIforall](#), [icould](#) and [Fast Tomato](#)
27. **How much do graduates have to earn before they start paying back their student loan?** (April 20 figure) - £26,575.

28. **What % of their salary do graduates pay back?** - 9% of everything they earn over £26,575 (April 20 figure)
29. **How much will a graduate pay back each month if they earn £28,000 per year (April 20 figure)?** - £10.70 per month (average over the year)
30. **How much does a graduate earning less than the threshold pay back each month?** - Nothing
31. **How long does a graduate have to pay off their student loan?** - 30 years
32. **What happens to the balance if a graduate does not pay off their student loan within the time limit?** - After 30 years, any and all remaining debt is written off.
33. **What are the 2 HE apprenticeship levels?** **Higher apprenticeships**, Level 4, 5, 6 or 7 qualifications, with most apprentices gaining an NVQ Level 4, HND, or foundation degree. Some offer the opportunity to progress to Level 7 (which is postgraduate degree level). Can take from one to five years to complete, and involve part-time study at a college, university, or training provider, entry requirements can include at least five GCSEs grades 9 - 4, including English and Maths subjects, and Level 3 qualifications, including A levels, NVQs, or a BTEC. Some employers will expect or require applicants to have studied subjects relevant to the apprenticeship. **Degree apprenticeships** - a fairly new type of programme offered by some universities, similar to higher apprenticeships but differ in that they provide an opportunity to gain a full bachelor's degree (Level 6) or master's degree (Level 7). These programmes are being developed by employers, universities, and professional bodies working in partnership. Degree apprenticeships combine working with studying part-time at a university. Apprentices are employed throughout the programme, and spend part of their time at university and the rest with their employer. This can be on a day-to-day basis or in blocks of time, depending on the programme and requirements of the employer. They can take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.
34. **What age can you apply for HE apprenticeships?** Higher apprenticeships provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above - Post 18 Degree apprenticeships - Level 6 or Level 7 - Post 18
35. **What are the possible benefits of HE apprenticeships?** - Now recognised as an equal alternative to university, you gain valuable on-the-job experience and earn money as you study. You'll also be exempt from paying tuition fees. More organisations than ever before are offering apprenticeship schemes as employers come to view this method of training as a viable alternative to a university degree.
36. **What does HND stand for?** - Higher National Diploma
37. **What is a HND course?** - A level 5, higher education qualification, HND is equivalent in academic level to a foundation degree, or the first two years of a Bachelor's degree and are generally two years (full-time) and four years (part-time). HND courses are valued by companies and employers, and are perfect for individuals who wish to have a more of a 'hands-on' experience with their studies. HND level study can help you progress in your career, and is also valuable in preparing you for life at university. Most HND courses require one A level (or equivalent).

38. **What is involved in studying a HND course?** Assignments have been specifically developed for the world of work. It will offer you a more relaxed setting focusing on teaching you practical skills, and providing you with real-life work experience.
39. **Name 3 subject you can study a HDN course?** There's a wide array of possible HND subjects and industries for study, including: Engineering, Electrical engineering, Computing, Business management, Photography, Performing arts, Construction and civil engineering, Health and social care, Agriculture, Hospitality management, Sport and exercise sciences.
40. **What is a GAP Year?** Typically a year-long break before or after college/university during which students engage in various educational and developmental activities, such as travel or some type of regular work.
41. **What are the potential benefits in taking a GAP Year?** Taking a gap year can be beneficial - certainly in terms of your career and the experiences gained; Develop your transferable skills, Raise your cultural awareness, Increase your confidence and independence, Gain work experience, Save money for university, Improve your language skills, Give you time to decide if university is right for you.