



Stamford
College



Peterborough
College

A LEVELS

VS

DIPLOMAS

**Your pocket guide to
the most commonly
asked questions
about the differences
between studying
A Levels and Diplomas**

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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 to 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 Stamford College 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 to 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 valid as A Levels and **universities accept** them.

While A Levels are graded from Grade C to Distinction (D) or Distinction with Merit (D*), Diplomas are graded from UCAS Tariff Points. In addition to the skills, experiences and knowledge gained, Diplomas can also be used to help with university applications.

Some students choose to take a Diploma (or a Diploma and A Level) or a Diploma and A Level to help with university applications. This is at the discretion of the student and their school/college.

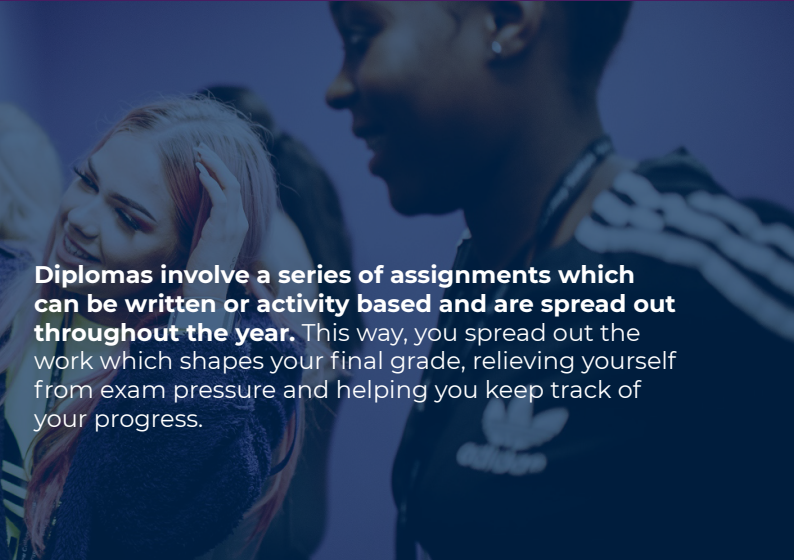
DO I NEED TO TAKE EXAMS?

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.

valuable and offer another route to university. **95% of UK students with Diploma qualifications.**

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

You can choose to study a Subsidiary Diploma (equivalent to one A Level) or a Diploma (equivalent to 2 A Levels) alongside additional academic subjects for your university applications. However, studying these subjects alongside your A Levels is a great idea. Discuss this with your lecturer.



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.

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 80 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.

Book your place at an open event to find out more!

www.stamford.ac.uk

www.peterborough.ac.uk

“College helps you become more independent and self-focused with great support from tutors who guide you to achieve your goals. I’ve now graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a First Class degree in Financial Mathematics.”



Dayne

A Level Maths, Further Maths and Physics

“I had planned to progress to Cabin Crew, especially with the College’s links to professionals such as Jet2 and British Airways but the course units and business modules helped me find a new passion for Marketing. I’m now heading to university to study for my degree.”



Alice

Travel & Tourism Diploma

**Have questions?
We are here to help.**



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