

**SUBJECT PREFERENCE AT G.C.E. (A/L) EXAMINATION
BY ARTS STUDENTS**

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Students eligible for admissions to traditional Universities are classified into 4 subject streams i.e. Arts, Commerce, Biological Sciences and Physical Science. Students are selected to undergraduate courses in Arts only from the Arts subject stream.

Arts students have a wide choice of 49 subjects unlike their counterparts in Commerce, Biological Science and Physical Science to choose the 4 subjects necessary for the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination. However, the number of languages allowed is restricted to three and the religions to one.

All the students who are eligible for admission having the minimum qualification laid down by the University Grants Commission do not seek admission. The percentage of eligible students applying in the subject stream of Arts has decreased from 69% in 1987/88 to 47% in 1989/90. Subjects offered by the applicants and students selected for the academic years 1987/88 to 1988/89 were analysed.

The analysis has revealed that majority of the students present themselves to only 15 subjects. They are Economics, Sinhala, Buddhist Civilization, Geography, Political Science, Logic, Home Economics, Tamil, Hindu Civilization, Pali, Islamic Civilization, Islam, Buddhism History and Commerce. In addition a student offering these subjects had a very high chance of selection. All these subjects have a very high pass rate. In fact the pass rate for Pali, Islam and Buddhism is over 90%.