

SCIENCE GCSE

All students take science in Years 10 and 11. There are two possible pathways. We will write to you in June of Year 9 to recommend the most suitable course for your son/daughter. You will be able to discuss this with your son/daughter's science teacher or with Ms Pinsent, Head of Science, at this stage. Please read the pages below for more information about the possible pathways.

THE 2 PATHWAYS:

- Combined Science (double award) which covers aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in two GCSEs. Most students take this pathway.
- Triple Science: students take all three separate science GCSEs.

Both pathways can lead to A-Level sciences and count as part of the entry requirements for A-Level study.

COMBINED SCIENCE (2 GCSEs)

INTRODUCTION

This qualification is worth two GCSEs and covers aspects of all three sciences. The advantage of this route is that you will have more time to learn new concepts and gain practical skills.

You will have shorter exams and less content to revise than people doing the separate sciences.



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Biology topics include cell biology, infection and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology and bioenergetics. **Chemistry topics** include atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, the rate and extent of chemical change and organic chemistry. **Physics topics** include forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your teacher will assess your progress in Science throughout Year 9 and will recommend the most suitable course for you to take in Years 10 and 11.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will take 6 exams at the end of Year 11 each lasting 75 minutes; two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics. There is no coursework but the written exams will include some questions about the practical work that students have done in class. This qualification will be graded on a 17-point scale: 9-9 to 1-1, where 9-9 is the highest grade.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

If you achieve at least one Grade 7 or above in Combined Science you could go on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. A Grade 5 or above would enable you to take the Level 3 BTEC Course in Applied Science which is equivalent to one A-Level.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the Combined Science course visit the AQA website or talk to your Science teacher or Ms Pinsent, Head of Science.

TRIPLE SCIENCE (3 GCSEs)

INTRODUCTION

You will take all three separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. Each subject will take approximately a third of your science lessons throughout the two years.

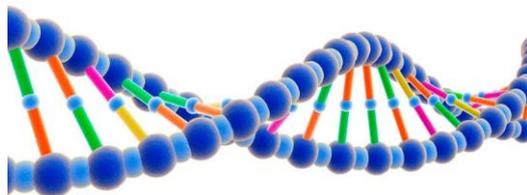
This pathway will be more intensive than Combined Science as there is no extra time allocation for triple award, but there is more content to learn for each topic. The pace will be fast and you must be prepared to work hard and independently, revising thoroughly for all the examinations.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Biology GCSE topics include cell biology, infection and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology, and bioenergetics.

Chemistry GCSE topics include atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, the rate and extent of chemical change, and organic chemistry.

Physics GCSE topics include forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, radioactivity, and space.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

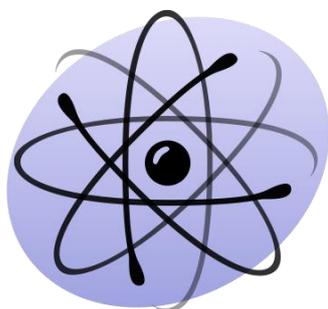
Your teacher will assess your progress in Science throughout Year 9 and will recommend the most suitable course for you to take in Years 10 and 11. You need to show an A1 attitude to learning and be achieving a Grade 5 or above in Year 9 science tests.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

For each GCSE there will be two examinations each lasting 1h 45min. All six examinations will take place at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework element but the written exams will include some questions about the practical work that you have done in class. Each GCSE qualification will be graded on a nine-point scale: 9 to 1 where 9 is the highest grade.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Doing triple science is good preparation for A-Levels in any of the three sciences; however to go on to A-Level you need to achieve at least a Grade 7 in that subject at GCSE. A Grade 5 or above would enable you to take Level 3 BTEC Course in Applied Science in the Sixth Form which is equivalent to one A-Level.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about Science GCSEs visit the AQA website or talk to your Science teachers or Ms Pinsent, Head of Science.