

## GCSE Science

Examination Board: AQA  
Course Specification: 8461, 8462 and 8463

### What is Science all about?

GCSE Science builds on the science covered in KS3 to give students a sound foundation in scientific concepts.

### KS4 Science Structure:

All students will study Science, initially with the aim gaining GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Some Students who are better suited to Combined Science (formally known as Double Award) will be entered for the 'Combined Science' qualification rather than the Triple Science examinations and will gain the equivalent of two GCSEs. The decision to change the entry of a student will be made during the summer term of Year 10 based on performance on the course up to that time and discussion with the student, parent and curriculum leader.

### Course Structure:

Science will be taught with 10 hours per fortnight by subject specialists.

The content of the specification will be taught across the three years. The details of which are yet to be finalised but will be made available in due course.

### How will I be assessed?

All formal exams will take place at the end of Year 11. Each GCSE in Science will have two papers, each are 1 hour 45 min in length. Practical skills will be assessed in the external examinations. The new GCSE grading system will be used where students will be awarded a number grade from 9 to 1 for each of the three GCSE Sciences or combined score for Combined Science e.g. 8-8, 8-7, 7-7 etc.

For students selected to do Combined Science, the exam structure is the same with the same topics, but will only be 1 hr 15 min long each.

### Exam structure for Science:

- Biology paper 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
- Biology paper 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.
- Chemistry paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes and Energy changes.
- Chemistry paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources
- Physics paper 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure
- Physics paper 2: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism

### What could I do next with GCSE Triple Science?

The content of the triple award science is largely the same as combined science. It does however go into more detail for each topic, and as a result supports students who are seriously considering A-level sciences in the future.