Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE Triple Award Science

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

What is Science all about?

GCSE Triple Award Science builds on the science covered in KS3 to give students a sound foundation in scientific concepts. Science studies a broad content range and as a result opens up many doors for potential careers. Both GCSE Combined and Triple Award Science are suitable for further study beyond GCSE but for those students who are passionate about science and strive for a scientifically based career including engineering, then Triple Science will support this progression well.

KS4 Science Structure:

There are two choices for students to consider: GCSE Combined Science and GCSE Triple Award Science. GCSE Combined Science is the default course all students will do unless they choose Triple Award as an option. Both GCSE Combined Science and GCSE Triple Award Science compromises of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and are taught by specialist subject teachers. Students do not lose an option by electing to do Combined Science, whereas Triple Award Science would be one of their options.

Course Structure:

GCSE Combined Science will be taught with 10 hours per fortnight by subject specialists. Students will spend three hours per science per fortnight. The remaining one hour per fortnight is on 'Working Scientifically' which covers practical and mathematical skills common to all three sciences.
GCSE Triple Award Science will be taught with 15 hours per fortnight (5 hours per subject) with working scientifically being covered within the subject lessons.

The content of the specification will the taught across the three years and can be found here:
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse

How will I be assessed?

All formal exams will take place at the end of Year 11. For Triple Award Science, each GCSE 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 on the Combined Science course, the exam structure is the same with the same topics, but will only be 1 hr 15 min long each and go in to less depth.

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 Award Science?

Students can go on to study any of the A-Levels in science subjects doing Combined Science or Triple Award Science. Triple Science Award is recommended for students who are successful in their science subjects in Year 7 and 8, are passionate about science and have a science career in mind.