

GCSE Combined Science



Science is a compulsory subject at GCSE and students either follow the Combined Science (Dual Award) program, or can choose the 3rd Science as one of their option choices, which enables students to gain separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as an alternative to the Combined Science GCSE.

Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics all count as part of the Ebacc and are recognised by employers and higher education institutions as important indicators of academic ability.

Combined Science

Students follow the AQA Combined Science Trilogy courses during Year 10 and 11. This consists of units from Biology; Chemistry and Physics, and requires students to take an active part in 16 required practical activities over the two years.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment in Combined Science takes the form of six (1hr 15mins) written papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics, each paper is worth 16.7% of final mark. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas using a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

Triple Science (Biology; Chemistry and Physics)

The Triple Science is available as the option choice 3rd Science. It enables students to gain separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Those that choose to follow the Triple Science route will cover similar units to those covered in Combined Science but to a greater depth and demand. They also have to take an active part in 8 required practical for each subject studied. Like other option subjects, Biology; Chemistry and Physics are taught over two years and are assessed as separate qualifications at the end of Year 11.

Who should do Triple Science?

If you enjoy Science, and have a predicted level of 5-5 or better for the end of year 11, you should seriously consider choosing the Triple Science Option.

It will enable you to have a much broader and more in-depth level of scientific knowledge and understanding, which will give you a real advantage, should you choose to study Sciences or Associated Subjects at A level (Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Psychology).

Also if you want to pursue a career within Science Technology Engineer or Maths (STEM) it would be an advantage, for example the following careers are all STEM related careers:

- Medicine
- Nursing

- Engineering (Mechanical/Electrical/Chemical)
- Veterinary Work
- Forensic Science
- Physiotherapy
- Pharmaceutical e.g. MSD/ P&G
- Sports Science
- Pathology
- Law
- Marine Technology
- Marine biologist
- Veterinary

How will I be assessed?

Assessment in Biology; Chemistry and Physics follow a similar structure to Combined Science with two (1hr 45mins) exams per subject, each paper worth 50% of the final mark. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas using a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

For further information please contact Mr Hiscock, Head of Science Faculty:

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