

Science GCSE information Leaflet

Key information about the Science GCSE:

- The Science GCSE is a statutory exam – this means that everyone has to take it.
- Exam board – AQA. Information on the specification can be found using these links:
 - Combined Science: Trilogy
 - [AQA | Science | GCSE | Combined Science: Trilogy](#)
 - Biology
 - [AQA | Science | GCSE | Biology](#)
 - Chemistry
 - [AQA | Science | GCSE | Chemistry](#)
 - Physics
 - [AQA | Science | GCSE | Physics](#)
- Terminal assessment – this means all exams are sat in the summer term of Year 11.
- There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Content – Combined Science

Biology Paper 1
What's assessed Biology topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes• Foundation and Higher Tier• 70 marks• 16.7% of GCSE
Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.



Biology Paper 2
What's assessed Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes• Foundation and Higher Tier• 70 marks• 16.7% of GCSE
Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Chemistry Paper 1

What's assessed

Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.



Chemistry Paper 2

What's assessed

Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Questions in Paper 2 may draw on fundamental concepts and principles from Sections 5.1 to 5.3.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Physics Paper 1
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Physics topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • Foundation and Higher Tier • 70 marks • 16.7% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.</p>



Physics Paper 2
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Physics topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • Foundation and Higher Tier • 70 marks • 16.7% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.</p>

These six examination papers give a combined total leading to the double award.

Content – GCSE Biology

Paper 1	+	Paper 2
What's assessed Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.		What's assessed Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• Foundation and Higher Tier• 100 marks• 50 % of GCSE		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• Foundation and Higher Tier• 100 marks• 50 % of GCSE
Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.		Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Content – GCSE Chemistry

Paper 1:
What's assessed Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• Foundation and Higher Tier• 100 marks• 50% of GCSE
Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



Paper 2:
What's assessed Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources. Questions in Paper 2 may draw on fundamental concepts and principles from sections 4.1 to 4.3.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• Foundation and Higher Tier• 100 marks• 50% of GCSE
Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Content – GCSE Physics

Paper 1:

What's assessed

Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



Paper 2:

What's assessed

Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

Questions in paper 2 may draw on an understanding of energy changes and transfers due to heating, mechanical and electrical work and the concept of energy conservation from [Energy](#) (page 17) and [Electricity](#) (page 23).

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Equipment

Pupils need all the following equipment every lesson:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator

In exams pupils will also need a protractor (we would advise having their own for lessons as well).

Useful Resources

- **BBC Bitesize** - [GCSE Science - BBC Bitesize](#) . Ensure that AQA is selected.
- **Seneca Learning** - [Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 \(senecalearning.com\)](#)
- **Free Science Lessons** - [Freesciencelessons - YouTube](#)
- **Cognito** - [Cognito - YouTube](#)