

Year 9 GCSE Science

What qualifications are offered in Science?

- Students will follow the AQA specification for GCSE Science.
- Students may complete either:
 - GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (resulting in two GCSEs) - **Allows for further study at A-Level.**
 - GCSE Separate Sciences (resulting in three GCSEs) - **Allows for further study at A-Level.**
- In the Autumn term students may begin the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy pathway.
- GCSE Separate Science will also begin during the Autumn term. Students have the option to take this pathway based on personal preference.
- Exams will have tiered entry; foundation tier examinations will allow students to achieve grade 1-5, while higher tier allows grades 4-9.
- Both courses are linear so students will take all examinations at the end of Year 11.

What do the qualifications consist of?

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

- Covers all three science disciplines.
- Taught over Years 9, 10 and 11.
- Students will obtain two GCSEs on a 17 point grading scale (9-9, 9,8 through to 2,1, 1-1).
- Sixteen required practicals to complete - 15% of examination questions relate to these.
- 10% of questions will require higher tier GCSE mathematics skills - 1:2:3 ratio of mathematics questions across biology, chemistry and physics.
- Six examination papers to be taken at the end of Year 11.

Examination	Length	Weighting
Paper 1 Biology	<i>All 1 hour 15 minutes</i>	All 16.7% - 70 marks
Paper 2 Biology		
Paper 1 Chemistry		
Paper 2 Chemistry		
Paper 1 Physics		
Paper 2 Physics		

GCSE Separate Sciences

- Covers all GCSE Science: Trilogy content along with much more challenging content in each science area.
- Students will obtain three GCSEs, each with a separate grade (9-1) for each science.
- Eight required practicals per science – 15% of examination questions relate to these.
- 10% of biology questions, 20% of chemistry and 30% of physics questions require higher tier GCSE mathematics skills.
- Six examination papers to be taken at the end of Year 11.

Examination	Length	Weighting
Paper 1 Biology	<i>All 1 hour 45 minutes</i>	50% - 100 marks
Paper 2 Biology		
Paper 1 Chemistry		
Paper 2 Chemistry		
Paper 1 Physics		
Paper 2 Physics		

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Which groups will students be in?

- Students will remain in their current sets until the end of Year 9.
- The current set number is not an indication of ability - students are in mixed ability groups during Year 9 so set 5 is equal to set 4, for example.
- Students will be placed in ability sets at the beginning of Year 10.

How can parents help?

- Encourage your child to complete **optional homework** tasks, research, coursework preparation and production, reading, exam preparation and practice.
- Encourage your child to **read** a range of texts - magazines, web-based articles, newspapers.
- Purchase **revision guides** from the Academy or other publishers.
- Encourage your child to use the **internet** for revision: www.bbcbitesize.co.uk

