

Science
Examination Board: Edexcel

Pathways:

1. Separate sciences: Three individual science GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
2. Combined sciences: Two science GCSE grades in Combined Science.

Pupils begin studying the GCSE science course in Year 9. Pupils follow the same program of study thus all pupils learn the same ideas and concepts and the same content from the science specification. This ensures that at the end of Year 9 all pupils are at the same point for the end of year assessment, which assesses the GCSE content studied through Year 9. Pupils are placed on one of the two science pathways described above, for the start of Year 10. Our decision places pupils on the course which we consider most likely to result in their greatest academic success.

1. Separate science

What is studied during the course?

Following the Edexcel specification, pupils taking the separate science pathway follow the 2016 single science courses and will obtain a GCSE in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The 2016 specifications have significant demand in terms of the concepts covered as part of the course content, as well as in the quantity and demand of maths skills required for the examinations. The separate science course is ideal for those pupils who have a real passion and aptitude for the sciences. The course is taught in a way that makes science relevant to the twenty first century and encourages scientific literacy whilst catering for different aptitudes and interests. The study skills required to follow this path are transferable across other courses and useful in preparation for further and higher education.

How is the course assessed?

The knowledge, skills and understanding of science will be integrated into several core practicals. The skills learnt during the completion of these core practical experiments will be assessed along with the rest of the content in the Year 11 final GCSE. Pupils will sit two papers per GCSE (a total of 6 examinations each of 100 marks) at the end of Year 11.

2. Combined science

What is studied during the course?

Following the Edexcel specification, pupils taking the Combined Science pathway follow the 2016 combined science specification. All three science disciplines are covered by the course with the results being combined to give two GCSE grades. The 2016 specifications have significant demand in terms of the concepts covered as part of the course content, as well as in the quantity and demand of maths skills required for the examinations. The course is taught in a way that makes science relevant to the twenty first century and encourages scientific literacy whilst catering for different aptitudes and interests. The scientific understanding and study skills required to follow this path are transferable across other courses and useful in preparation for further education in Science and non-science qualifications.

How is the course assessed?

The knowledge, skills and understanding of science will be integrated into a number of core practical experiments. The skills learnt during the completion of these core practical experiments will be assessed along with the rest of the content in the final examinations. Pupils will sit two papers per science specialism (a total of 6 examinations each of 60 marks) at the end of Year 11.

For further information, please contact Mr Mayo.