

Science

GCSE

AQA

Structure & Specification

Single Award GCSE Science

Syllabus details

AQA 4462 syllabus **B** is followed.

What does the course include?

The Science GCSE is a one year course which covers a range of topics including some Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The content is divided into three units, Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1, and each is further subdivided:

Biology 1: What can we do to keep our bodies healthy? How do we use / abuse medical and recreational drugs?

Chemistry 1 includes rocks, metals, oil for fuels and polymers, the Earth and its atmosphere.

Physics 1 includes heat, electricity generation, electromagnetic radiation, the origins of the universe.

How will I learn?

To ensure that the course is as varied and interesting as possible we will help you learn in many different ways, but the main emphasis will be on carrying out investigations in the laboratory. This will allow you to see for yourself why things happen and we hope that by the end of the year you will be starting to think and work like a real scientist.

As well as practical work, you may be asked to carry out research in the Learning Resource Centre or to give presentations to the class, and of course there will be teacher led sessions.

Naturally you will need to work hard to succeed and so we will expect you to spend at least two hours a week of your own time making sure you understand the science you have covered in class.

We will make sure that you know about the best ways to study and learn on your own, so that you can get the most out of yourself when it comes to taking exams. You may be required to attend extra support sessions in addition to the timetabled lessons.

How will my work be assessed?

The three units Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1 are assessed by short answer written papers. Each makes up 25% of the overall mark. You will take one exam in January and the other two in June.

The fourth assessed unit comprises an Investigative Skills Assignment, which is normal class practical work followed by an externally set, internally assessed test taking 45 minutes, and a Practical Skills Assessment.

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

Motivation and commitment are key to success in this course.

What are the entry requirements?

The precise entry qualifications will depend on your overall GCSE results, and on other GCSEs you choose to study, but it is likely that you will need to have obtained at least a grade D in Science. If you have taken BTEC First or OCR National Science you must have achieved a pass at least.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

The Science GCSE gives you a useful qualification and as part of a GCSE profile shows that you have the ability and skills to achieve an exam-based qualification at level 2. For some further courses and jobs you need a GCSE grade C or above in a science, for example teaching, nursing.