

Subject:	Combined Sciences
Level:	GCSE
Awarding Body:	Edexcel
Specification Code:	1SC0
Awarding Body website:	www.edexcel.com
ASSESSMENT:	
Controlled Assessment %:	0%
When will it be taken?	N/A
Examination %:	100%
When will it be sat?	May/June at end of Year 11
TIERS:	
Higher Tier Grades:	9 - 4
Foundation Tier Grades:	5 - 1
No Tier Grades:	N/A
Subject Leader:	Miss J Guest
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Description

The very first time a child turns over a rock or bangs the pots and pans together in the kitchen they are 'doing science'; they are experimenting. 'How does this work? Why does this happen? What would happen if...?' All of these are key questions that humans should ask throughout their lives and it is such questions that have allowed us to reach the heights of technology and medicine that we see in the world around us today.

The importance of science and of scientific literacy/numeracy is reflected in its status as a compulsory GCSE subject in all schools.

Students who do not opt for separate sciences will take combined science, which results in two GCSEs. Within the course, students will study biology, chemistry and physics with separate teachers.

What will I learn?

Common to all courses:

WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

Development of scientific thinking; Experimental skills and strategies; Analysis and evaluation; Scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, symbols and nomenclature

Course specific content includes:

- BIOLOGY** Overarching concepts in biology; Cells and control, Genetics; Natural selection and genetic modification; Health, disease and the development of medicines; Plant structures and their functions; Animal coordination; control and homeostasis; Exchange and transport in animals; Ecosystems and material cycles
- CHEMISTRY** Overarching concepts in chemistry: atomic structure, the periodic table, ionic bonding, covalent bonding, types of substance, calculations involving masses; States of matter; Methods of separating and purifying substances; Acids; Obtaining and using metals; Electrolytic processes; Reversible reactions and equilibria; Groups 1, 7 and 0; Rates of reaction; Fuels; Heat energy changes in chemical reactions; Earth and atmospheric science
- PHYSICS** Overarching concepts of physics: motion, forces and conservation of energy; Waves; Light and the electromagnetic spectrum; Particle model –1; Radioactivity; Astronomy; Energy - Forces doing work; Forces and their effects; Electricity and circuits; Static electricity; Magnetism and the motor effect; Electromagnetic induction; Particle model - 2

How will I be assessed?

For this course, there are six written examinations, two for each of the subject areas. Each examination is 1 hour and 10 minutes in length and worth 16.67% of the final grade. While there is no longer any controlled assessment, a total of eighteen core practical's must be completed. Students will be tested on their practical and investigative skills as part of the written examinations.

Future opportunities

Science develops many skills such as, planning, critical thinking, analysing, evaluating, etc. that are applicable to a wide range of subjects and to life in general.

Success in combined science provides a solid foundation for students wishing to study applied science vocational qualifications at sixth form or find a subject-related apprenticeship. For students who achieve the highest grades, transition to A-level Biology, Chemistry or Physics would be a viable option and these can lead to higher level study at university.