

Yr 9 - The course outline for KS4 Science (3yr course)

You will be studying for two qualifications in science over the next three years:

All of year 9 and half of year 10: GCSE Science
Half of year 10, all of year 11: GCSE Additional Science

For both of these courses, the syllabus that we will follow is EDEXCEL.

If you would like to find out more about the course then visit:

<http://360science.edexcel.org.uk/home/>

GCSE Science

2 Biology units (B1a, B1b)
2 Chemistry units (C1a, C1b)
2 Physics units (P1a, P1b)

Each unit covers two topics:

Unit B1a

Topic 1 - Environment
Topic 2 - Genes

Unit B1b

Topic 3 - Electrical and chemical signals
Topic 4 - Use, misuse and abuse

Unit C1a

Topic 5 - Patterns in properties
Topic 6 - Making Changes

Unit C1b

Topic 7 - There's one earth
Topic 8 - Designer products

Unit P1a

Topic 9 - Producing and meas. Elect.
Topic 10 - You're in charge

Unit P1b

Topic 11 - Now u c it, now u don't
Topic 12 - Space and its mysteries



Completed in yr 9



Started in yr 9, completed in yr 10



Started and completed in year 10. You then start GCSE Additional Science

You can cover a unit at Foundation level (up to grade C) or Higher level (up to grade A*)

Assessment

You will be assessed in 3 ways:

Multiple choice exams = 60% of your final grade

Across the course, you will take 6 external exams in the sports hall.

Each test covers one unit, i.e. TWO topics.

e.g. B1a is a biology unit. The test covers 'Environment' and 'Genes'.

An exam takes 20 mins. You can sit the paper at Foundation or Higher level.

You will be tested on TWO units, i.e. FOUR topics at a sitting.

You are expected to use your K & U to explain/interpret problems on an exam paper and recall information.

The provisional exam dates are:

Fri 6th March 09: 1st entry on B1a, C1a

Fri 12th June '09: resit opportunity on B1a, C1a.

You will have more exams in GCSE SCIENCE when you enter year 10.

THERE ARE NO TERMINAL EXAMS in GCSE SCIENCE.

Assessment of practical skills = 10% of your final grade

This assesses you on how you carry out practicals.

Your teacher will assess you on 3 things:

Following instructions,

Collecting data,

Presenting results.

The assessment will take place during a practical lesson.

Internal Assessment Activities (IAA's) = 30% of your final grade

This assesses you on your knowledge and understanding of 'how science works' in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

You will have the opportunity to boost your marks so that ultimately your best marks in Biology, Chemistry and Physics go forward.

So, 40% of your assessment is done in class.

You will be warned when the assessment activities are coming up. Absences from school will cause problems and it is vital that you speak to your class teacher if there are problems. We would hope that you would not arrange any appointments, e.g. dentist, on the day of an assessment.

Towards the end of year 10 you will start to study GCSE Additional Science. The assessment is similar. You will be given a more detailed course outline in year 10.

Have you bought a revision guide?

Ask your teacher about which guide is the most suitable for you.

Recommended revision guides:

- 1) Edexcel Course companion 360 science (GCSE SCIENCE).
Includes a CD-ROM which features exam style questions with answers and examiners advice.
ISBN: 978-1-84690-158-8. It's for Foundation AND Higher tiers
- 2) CGP GCSE CORE SCIENCE Science Edexcel 360 Science.
The workbook (Higher Tier): Includes more exam style questions.
ISBN: 978-1-84146-721-4. (Answer book ISBN: 978-1-84146-722-1)
- 3) CGP GCSE CORE SCIENCE Science Edexcel 360 Science.
The work book (Foundation Tier): Includes answers to the workbook.
ISBN: 978-1-84146-717-7. (Foundation Answer book ISBN: 978-1-84146-718-4)