

GCSE Sciences: A Guide for students and parents

Revision and home learning guide for Linear June exams

Advice to students and parents

Resources available

A variety of resources will be provided to ensure that every student is fully prepared for the Triple Science and Combined Science papers. These should be used to complement the work covered in class and will allow students to tailor their efforts to their own individual needs.

Resource 1: CGP Exam Practise Workbooks

Practise questions sorted by topic covering all of the GCSE content. If you work through these and hand in to Science staff answers can be provided as needed.

Resource 2: Mock exams and teacher feedback

Students have taken a mock paper in each subject as part of their preparation for the actual exam. Students should revisit mock papers and attempt questions again based on individual feedback indicating topics of weakness that need to be the focus of their own revision. A good starting point is to identify topics where you scored low and focus revision on these topics.

Resource 3: Previous and sample examination papers

Specimen papers are available on the AQA web site. There are a number of papers available for each Science subject. Last years Science papers are not yet available on the web site but will be after April. This was the first year of the new exams so there are no other past papers that you can practise.

Resource 4: – Web based revision sites – make sure you use AQA specific resources

Dr Browns Science Revision - <http://www.docbrown.info/page17/2016-0-index.htm>

This is an excellent free site website which includes detailed notes on all science topics and has a number of quizzes and revision summaries

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

This website has lots of summary notes and some videos to support you. The Combined Science is AQA Combined Science Trilogy. Triple Science are listed as the separate science subjects.

MyGCSEScience – you tube <https://www.youtube.com/user/myGCSEscience>

A number of summary videos containing all the science topics in each science. Remember to select the AQA videos.

Physics & Maths tutor - <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>

A website covering all sciences with excellent revision notes, worksheets and practise questions.

Kahoot - <https://kahoot.com/>

Lots of interactive quizzes on different topics

Pass My Exams - <http://www.passmyexams.co.uk/>

A good revision site containing notes and animations on all the Sciences

Purchasable resources

A scientific calculator.

It is essential that your son/daughter has their own scientific calculator and that students know how to use it correctly – especially when rounding up numbers on calculations and recurring values for decimal points.

A ruler, pencil, rubber and black biro

Useful information

The Triple Science qualification consists of two equally-weighted written examination in each of the Science subjects at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Biology Paper 1 12th May 2020 pm
- Biology Paper 2 1st June 2020 pm
- Chemistry Paper 1 14th May 2020 am
- Chemistry Paper 2 10th June 2020 pm
- Physics Paper 1 20th May 2019 pm
- Physics Paper 2 12th June 2020 am

Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long. You can choose different tiers for each subject but the same tier has to be chosen for each paper within a subject. The lowest grade on a higher tier Paper is a 4 (small number may gain a 3 if close to a 4).

The Combined Science (Trilogy) qualification consists of six equally-weighted written examination with 2 papers in each of the Science subjects at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Biology Paper 1 12th May 2020 pm
- Biology Paper 2 1st June 2020 pm
- Chemistry Paper 1 14th May 2020 am
- Chemistry Paper 2 10th June 2020 pm
- Physics Paper 1 20th May 2020 pm
- Physics Paper 2 12th June 2020 am

Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes long. You have to sit the same tier of entry in **ALL** papers. The lowest grade on a higher tier paper is 4-3. Below this you are ungraded.

What can parents do to help?

- Encourage rather than push. – students can get no grade at all if they sit higher papers and cannot cope with this
- Follow school advice on tier of entry
- Help structure the revision so time is not wasted.
- Help students practise questions against the clock.....1 mark is roughly 1 minute.

- If you were good at Science do not get frustrated by your child.
- If you were poor (or hated) Science do not let this discourage them.
- Provision of a scientific calculator. The Casio fx-83 or fx-85 is used in school maths lessons and hence is our recommendation.

- Reassure students if 1 paper in the exam does not go to plan....there are several more than still count and can massively influence the final grade.

What should my child be doing?

- Past paper and examination question practise is vital.
- Learn from mistakes – use the mock exams to identify the topics that need improving.
- Listen to the advice given to them by teachers – even if they do not like it!
- Help their teachers, by letting them know what topics they need help with and what makes them difficult.
- Make the most of the revision resources available and attend revision classes.
- Do not waste lesson time.
- Ensure that regular revision in the run up to the exam.
- Last minute revision is fine (***But only useful if a lot of revision has already taken place***)

Contact email: Patrick.sawyer@oldburywells.com