

KS4

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (equivalent to two GCSEs)

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

There is a great deal of exciting content and the course gives you a marvellous insight into not only traditional topics but also cutting edge technology such as nuclear and particle physics, genetic modification and DNA analysis, industrial chemistry and alternative fuels.

The course covers all three sciences and is sub-divided into topics which are further grouped for examinations.

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

Assessments - examinations

These occur at the end of your two year course.

The exams will measure how you have achieved against the following assessment objectives.

- ✓ AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific techniques and procedures.
- ✓ AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures.
- ✓ AO3: Analyse information and ideas to: interpret and evaluate; make judgments and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures.

There are **six papers**: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

How you are assessed

- Written examinations last 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier options
- 70 marks per paper
- 16.7% of GCSE per paper (six papers in total)
- Question style
 - Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Practical Work

There is no longer an assessed practical element to the examinations. The two-year course includes twenty-one practicals that must be done by all students. These are called 'Required Practical Activities' and ensure you get a deep insight into how science is explored. These are then examined in the written papers.