

KS5 GCE Chemistry

What will I learn?

Chemistry is a challenging and rewarding subject with the humble ambition of understanding the nature of reality. Through the study of this course, students will build on the foundations of Chemistry they have learnt in GCSE to understand in much greater depth the roles of both physical and organic Chemistry in the modern world.

The OCR Chemistry A specification is designed to inspire learners. The course will develop interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with Chemistry. Content is split into six teaching modules:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in Chemistry
- Module 2: Foundations of Chemistry
- Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy
- Module 4: Core organic Chemistry
- Module 5: Physical Chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6: Organic Chemistry and analysis

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.
- Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6.
- Practical endorsement: Covering key practical skills throughout the course, this has a separate pass fail element.
- Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry is a 135 minute paper; is worth 37% and comprises two sections.
 - Section A is a 15 mark multiple choice paper and Section B is an 85 mark paper composed of structured questions.
- Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical techniques is a 135 minute paper; is worth 37% and comprises two sections.
 - Section A is a 15 mark multiple choice paper and Section B is an 85 mark paper composed of structured questions.
- Paper 3: Unified Chemistry is a 90 minute paper; is worth 26% and is a single 70 mark paper.

What are the entry requirements?

English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Combined Science GCSE or Chemistry GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Students should also consider studying A level Mathematics.

What are the costs?

There are no mandatory costs to study Chemistry. The textbook is freely available online as are all of the resources used in lessons.

The demands of the course

Chemistry is not an easy subject, though it can be very rewarding.

This course requires students to consistently work hard, complete classwork, homework, independent study and practise past paper questions. This course does blend well with both biology and mathematics though neither are required they can be helpful in understanding key ideas.

Future opportunities

Chemistry is a versatile subject that allows students to access many areas of future study and professions. In addition to the study of Chemistry, students could go on to study and then work in fields such as medicine, chemical engineering, pharmacologist, forensic scientist, environmental science and many more!