

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science

The new Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It provides insight into and experience of how science works, stimulating students' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with science in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study and career choices.

Edexcel GCSE Combined Science is equivalent to 2 GCSEs. It is divided into 6 units: Biology 1 & 2; Chemistry 1 & 2; and Physics 1 & 2. The content overview of each unit will be readily available from Science staff during parents' consultation evening.

Overview of assessment:

Each unit (B1 & B2, C1 & C2 and P1 & P2) is assessed through a 1 hour 10 minute, 60 mark, tiered written examination, containing six questions. There is a Foundation paper: grades 1-5 or a Higher paper: grades 4-9

The 6 unit examinations are externally assessed and each is 16.67% of the total GCSE. Students will be entered for either the Foundation or Higher paper depending upon their ability. This GCSE follows a linear programme of assessment (*In a linear qualification, the examinations are taken at the end of the course.*)

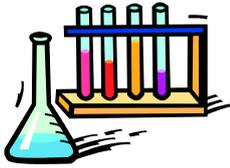
The Unit examinations include three types of question parts:

1. **Objective questions** – used only where this will provide credible evidence of knowledge and skills.
2. **Structured short answers** – for maths, How Science Works, or theory.
3. **Longer answers** worth 6 marks – to help provide stretch and challenge.

During the duration of the GCSE course, students will undertake 18 mandatory core practicals; these will be completed in class. Knowledge and understanding of these practical techniques and procedures will be assessed in the 6 terminal papers in May/June 2018. It is essential that students complete all 18 core practicals.

Further information: http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/GCSE-Combined_Science-2016

Recommended reading: CGP GCSE Core Science (Edexcel) The Revision Guide (Foundation/Higher)



SCIENCE

Edexcel Entry Level Science



The Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Science enables students to acquire a body of basic scientific knowledge and an understanding of some important scientific ideas, whilst developing basic experimental and investigative skills.

To ensure students have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, the topics are aligned to content in the Edexcel 2014 GCSE in Science. This ensures that students can either start to gain GCSE foundation tier knowledge but then drop back to Entry level if the GCSE is too demanding, or complete the Entry Level qualification and then build on their knowledge by attempting to learn the GCSE foundation tier knowledge.

There are nine topics which focus on the following areas of the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study:

1. Classification and variation
2. Changes in humans and plants
3. Drugs and bacteria
4. The Earth, its atmosphere and chemical reactions
5. Acids and metals
6. Fuels
7. Waves and radiation
8. Earth and space
9. Electricity and energy

Assessment:

The Entry Level Certificate in Science is awarded at one of three levels: Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, with Entry 1 being the lowest level of achievement and Entry 3 the highest. For each level, assessment is based on two components:

- **Topic tests** (15 marks each- internally marked, externally set and moderated).
- **Assignments** (20 marks each -internally marked, externally set and moderated).

Topic tests are worth 60% of the overall mark; Assignments are worth 40% of the overall mark.

The best 6 Topic Test marks are submitted and the best 3 Assignment marks are submitted.

Tests and assignments are completed during the 2 year course.

Different types of question are used in the topic tests, including some of the following:

- Single word response
- Multiple-choice questions
- Word boxes in various forms
- Simple arithmetic

- Simple free response.

Further information: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/Entry>

Recommended reading: CGP GCSE Core Science (Edexcel) The Revision Guide (Foundation/The basics)