

WHS GCSE Science Information – Y11

General introduction

At Westborough High School your child will be studying either GCSE Combined (Trilogy) or GCSE Triple Science (biology, chemistry and physics). They will be aware of the qualification that they are studying and their class teacher will have notified them on the tier that they will be sitting in order for them to achieve the best grades.

How will students be assessed

Combined Science

- There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.
 - **Biology Paper 1** - topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
 - **Biology Paper 2** - topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
 - **Chemistry Paper 1** - topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
 - **Chemistry Paper 2** - topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.
 - **Physics Paper 1** - topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
 - **Physics Paper 2** - topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Each exam will be a written paper, 1 hour 15 minutes in duration.
- There will be 70 marks on each paper, consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses, with each paper making up 16.7% of the final GCSE grade, *overall two GCSE grades will be awarded.*

Triple Science

- There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.
- *Your child will receive 3 separate grades for biology, chemistry and physics.*
 - **Biology Paper 1** - topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
 - **Biology Paper 2** - topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
 - **Chemistry Paper 1** - topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
 - **Chemistry Paper 2** - topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.
 - **Physics Paper 1** - topics 1–4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
 - **Physics Paper 2** - topics 5–8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space.
- Each exam will be a written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes in duration.
- There will be 100 marks on each paper, consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses, with each paper making up 50% of the final GCSE grade for each science discipline.

To help students focus on their exam preparation, **the AQA exam board have released advanced information on what the exams will cover**, along with an **equation sheet for the physics components**. These can be found by clicking on the relevant links below:

- [GCSE Combined](#)
- [GCSE Biology](#)
- [GCSE Chemistry](#)
- [GCSE Physics](#)

Equation sheets

- [GCSE Combined](#)
- [GCSE Physics](#)

What are the Exam dates?

The dates for the mock exams are:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| PHYSICS | Wednesday 2 nd March | Afternoon |
| CHEMISTRY | Thursday 3 rd March | Morning |
| BIOLOGY | Monday 7 th March | Morning |

Teachers will mark the papers, providing individual question level analysis for your child to then focus on where there are gaps in knowledge. To complement and provide feedback to parents there will be parents evening on Wednesday 30th March. Here you will have an opportunity to talk to subject teachers about how your child has done, and about how they can improve further in the run up to their final GCSE exam.

The actual GCSE exam dates are:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Biology paper 1 | Tuesday 17 th May | Morning |
| Chemistry Paper 1 | Friday 27 th May | Morning |
| Physics Paper 1 | Thursday 9 th June | Afternoon |
| Biology paper 2 | Wednesday 15 th June | Morning |
| Chemistry Paper 2 | Monday 20 th June | Morning |
| Physics Paper 2 | Thursday 23 rd June | Morning |

How can parents help plan for success in the GCSE exams?

- Individual PowerPoints can be found on the school website. These will also be shared with pupils via email and on Microsoft Team. They will outline how best to prepare for the exams, particularly providing guidance on the major focus areas in the forthcoming GCSE exams. These also include links to the exam specification for further information on the knowledge and skills needed in each area.
- If you could encourage your child to use the PowerPoint to revise the key topics of focus, either using the relevant pages in the revision guide, BBC Bitesize links and watching the linked videos from Free science lessons. They can use these resources to make bespoke mind maps or condensed revision notes.
- Once the knowledge has been revisited and revision notes have been made ensuring that they have condensed the key knowledge and skills, the use of the quizzes on BBC Bitesize will be helpful for your child to test themselves. Alternatively, ask them to get a friend or family member to help quiz them.
- If they are now confident with the knowledge, then they need to get plenty of practise of exam style questions. These can be found either using their workbooks or on the AQA website and one of the websites below. As part of the support teachers are providing your child will also be given past papers and questions by topic area to complete, please ensure that they are completing these.
- Finally a vital part of revising is ensuring that students spend the time on using mark schemes and identifying the gaps in knowledge, if required revisiting information or asking their teachers for support if needed.

Useful websites GCSE SCIENCE revision

- [AQA past papers](#)
- BBC Bitesize – [Combined](#), [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#), [Physics](#)
- [Cognito resources](#) – useful website consisting of videos, questions by topic and videos.

As ever if your child requires and further support then ask them to speak to or email their class teacher in the first instance. If further assistance is required then please email mkhan@w-h-s.org.uk