

WHY CHOOSE THE GCSE IN CHEMISTRY

The GCSE Science suite from September 2026

The following pathways are available in the suite:

GCSE Biology/Chemistry/Physics

Learners study for GCSEs in each of the three sciences and receive a separate grade in each one.

GCSE The Sciences (Double Award)

Learners study all three sciences and receive two GCSE grades.

GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award)

Learners study all three sciences in a context-led approach and receive one GCSE grade.

WHY CHOOSE GCSE CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is the science of the material world. It is the basis of the production of metals, plastics and important chemicals such as ammonia and sulfuric acid. It's behind developments in medicines, paints, toothpastes and countless other products you'll find in your kitchen and bathroom.

Today's chemists are working hard to address the global challenges facing modern society, for example, developing new battery technologies to improve the performance of electric vehicles so that we can reduce greenhouse emissions over the next decades.

GCSE is the start of a journey with a huge range of opportunities and will of course prepare you for study at A level.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1: Chemical substances, reactions and essential resources

This unit is normally completed in Year 10. It comprises six topics.

- The nature of substances and chemical reactions
- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
- Water
- The ever-changing Earth
- Rate of chemical change
- Limestone

Unit 2: Chemical bonding, application of chemical reactions and organic chemistry

This unit is normally covered in Year 11. It comprises six topics

- Bonding, structure and properties
- Acids, bases and salts
- Metals and their extraction
- Chemical reactions and energy
- Crude oil, fuels and organic chemistry
- Reversible reactions, industrial processes and important chemicals

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- knowledge and understanding of key areas of Chemistry and its application competence and confidence in a variety of practical, and problem-solving skills scientific enquiry and modelling skills and understanding in laboratory, and work-related contexts understanding of the relationships between data, evidence and explanations
- understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues
- communication, mathematical and technological skills in scientific contexts

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three units, all of which are marked by WJEC

Unit 1 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification. It is usually sat at the end of year 10. This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 2 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification. It is usually sat at the end of year 10. This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 3 is a scientific enquiry assessment which makes up 10% of the qualification. It is usually completed during January or February of year 11. This assessment is untiered.

CAREERS WITH GCSE CHEMISTRY

GCSE Chemistry can open a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: Medicine and healthcare, science and research, pharmacy, the chemical industry, environmental science, engineering, law and accountancy.