

# WHY CHOOSE THE GCSE IN PHYSICS

## 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 PHYSICS?

GCSE Physics provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Gaining a GCSE in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities and will allow you to continue to A level in this subject.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Unit 1: Electricity, energy and waves

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

- Electric circuits
- Generating electricity
- Making use of energy
- Domestic electricity
- Features of waves
- The total internal reflection of waves
- Seismic waves
- Kinetic theory
- Electromagnetism

### Unit 2: Forces, space and radioactivity

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

- Distance, speed and acceleration
- Newton's laws
- Work and energy
- Further motion concepts
- Stars and planets
- The Universe
- Types of radiation
- Half-life
- Nuclear decay and nuclear energy

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- knowledge and understanding of key areas of Physics 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 PHYSICS

GCSE Physics can open up a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: Medicine and healthcare, science and research, aerospace and defence, engineering, energy and renewable energy, meteorology and climate change, telecommunications and education.

To find out more visit [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)