

CHEMISTRY Advanced Level

Qualification Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry

Exam Board AQA

Course Specific Entry Requirements Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry **and** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or GCSE Physics. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required

Overview

Advanced Level Chemistry is divided into two strands:

- ▲ The **academic strand** covers all aspects of physical, inorganic and organic chemistry, all three of which develop in complexity over the two years of the course.
- ▲ The **practical strand** will involve a minimum of 12 assessed practical activities. At the end of two years, three written examinations will be taken, one of which will cover practical techniques and skills.

What will I learn?

▲ Paper 1 **Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry**

You will study a range of Physical Chemistry topics as well as practical skills and Inorganic Chemistry. You will develop and practise practical skills linked to the course. Your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam comprising both short and long answer questions. This exam contributes 35% of the A Level marks.

▲ Paper 2 **Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry**

You will study a range of Physical Chemistry topics as well as with practical skills and Organic Chemistry. Like Paper 1, your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam comprising both short and long answer questions. Paper 2 contributes 35% of the A Level marks.

▲ Paper 3 **All Topics and Practical Techniques**

This paper assesses all aspects of the course as well as the practical techniques acquired during two years of A Level study. Your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam which contributes 30% of the A Level marks.

Practical Skills Endorsement

This qualification will give you opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. Advanced Level Chemistry requires many interesting and specialist practical techniques which demand a range of core skills and competencies. There is a minimum of 12 assessed practicals, providing a certificate of practical competency which is particularly valued by universities, especially for those pursuing Chemistry at degree level.

How will I learn?

Lessons demand high levels of participation and you will be encouraged to discuss and critique your work as a valuable tool to help your progress. Reading and re-writing of notes is essential and homework is frequent. The course content is very diverse and, while demanding, it is an incredibly interesting and rewarding branch of scientific study.

Where could it lead?

A Level Chemistry is an essential or preferred qualification for a wide variety of science related courses at university but it is also viewed very favourably by the business and financial sector. It is commonplace for chemistry graduates to move into other areas of science. As a result, many doors are open to Chemistry graduates and career opportunities are very diverse. Chemistry is also a wise choice for students studying subjects mainly in the Arts or Humanities but who wish to maintain breadth and diversity in their studies. A Chemistry qualification shows that you have qualities important to many non-scientific careers, as well as scientific ones: that's why you'll find chemists in everything from food to finance!