

SCIENCE

Type of Qualification: GCSE (AQA)

How it is assessed: 100% External examination

Course Overview:

All year 9 students will begin on the Combined Science specification. At the end of year 9, we (students, teachers, parents) will decide which students should be moved to the Separate Science course. This decision will be based on test results, engagement and enthusiasm for the subject.

In year 10 and 11, all students will follow either the Separate Science or the Combined Science AQA specification.

- **Separate Science:** This course was called "Triple Science" on the old specification. Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They follow a course that, over three years, results in 3 total GCSEs, 1 each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- **Combined Science:** This course was called "Double Science" on the old specification. Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They follow a course that, over three years, results in 2 total GCSEs, both of which are called "Combined Science".

Grades:

Science has moved to the 9-1 grading scheme.

- Separate Science students will receive 1 grade (number) in each of Biology, Chemistry Physics.
- Combined Science students will receive a double grade (number) which is their overall Combined Science grade (for example, a 6-5).

Exam Structure:

We follow the AQA exam specification.

Separate Science students will have 6 exams total, 2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes and is out of 100 marks. Each of the six exams will include relevant course content as well as numeracy and literacy based questions. There are higher (grades 4 to 9) and foundation (grades 1 to 5) exams.

Combined Science students will have 6 exams total, 2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes and is out of 70 marks. Each of the six exams will include relevant course content as well as numeracy and literacy based questions. There are higher (grades 4-4 to 9-9) and foundation (grades 1-1 to 5-5) exams.

Beyond Year 11:

Sixth Forms presently do not put any preference on the Separate Science course over the Combined Science course. Their acceptance criteria are based on minimum grades, which can be achieved through either course.

