

# Combined science

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What will I learn on this course?

A: In GCSE combined science (the non-option route), you continue to build on your understanding of science from KS3. You will study all kinds of fascinating ideas, from how your body maintains its temperature in biology to how electricity is generated in physics. You will significantly build on your practical and mathematical skills, and start to solve complex problems about the world around you.

Topics you will study are shown below – for a full description of what is in each of the topics, click on the specifications at the end of this document.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cell biology</li><li>2. Organisation</li><li>3. Infection and response</li><li>4. Bioenergetics</li><li>5. Homeostasis and response</li><li>6. Inheritance, variation and evolution</li><li>7. Ecology</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Atomic structure and the periodic table</li><li>2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter</li><li>3. Quantitative chemistry</li><li>4. Chemical changes</li><li>5. Energy changes</li><li>6. The rate and extent of chemical change</li><li>7. Organic chemistry</li><li>8. Chemical analysis</li><li>9. Chemistry of the atmosphere</li><li>10. Using resources</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Energy</li><li>2. Electricity</li><li>3. Particle model of matter</li><li>4. Atomic structure</li><li>5. Forces</li><li>6. Waves</li><li>7. Magnetism and electromagnetism</li></ol>

### Q: How is the course assessed?

A: The three sciences are each assessed through two 70-mark exam papers, each worth 50% of the total available marks. The examinations can be taken at one of two tiers of entry: Foundation or Higher. The foundation tier covers grades 1 to 5, while the higher tier covers grades 4 to 9. There are no practical assessments in the new science qualification; however, questions assessing students' investigative skills will make up 15% of the examinations. The exams are all 1 hour 15 minutes in length and are taken at the end of Year 11.

Q: What is the difference between separate science and combined science?

A: The short answer to this is that you study the same topics in combined science as you do in separate science, but that you go into more depth in separate science. The exception to this is physics, where you will only study the space unit if you do separate science.

The table below shows all of the key differences between separate science and combined science.

Separate Science	Combined Science
This is an option choice	This is the non-option route
You will study all three sciences	You will study all three sciences
You have 9 double lessons a fortnight	You have 6 double lessons a fortnight
You will gain separate GCSEs for each of biology, chemistry and physics	You will gain 2 GCSEs in Science. These are combined grades across all three sciences
You sit 6 exams They are each 1 hr 45mins	You sit 6 exams They are each 1 hr 15mins

Q: Where can I find full details of the courses?

A: Students who take combined science follow the AQA Combined Science: Trilogy specification, which can be found here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

Q: Where can I find examples of exam papers I would take?

A: A specimen exam paper for each of the sciences can be found at the links below:

- Biology: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-84641B1H-SQP.PDF>
- Chemistry: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-84643C1H-SQP.PDF>
- Physics: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-84645P1H-SQP.PDF>

Q: What kind of workbook would be suitable for GCSE triple science study?

A: During the course, you will be given the opportunity to buy a Collins revision guides at a reduced price. These can be viewed at this link: <https://collins.co.uk/collections/revision-gcse-science-ages-14-16/products/9780008326678>

Alternatively, CGP do high quality revision workbooks:

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/scahw41-grade-9-1-gcse-combined-science-aqa-workbo>