

Chemistry A Level

Examination Board: OCR/EDEXCEL

Who should take the course?

These qualifications have been developed for candidates who wish to study Chemistry after GCSE Chemistry or Combined Science. The course builds on the knowledge gained in the GCSE, adding depth and breadth.

Many students are required to study A Level Chemistry in order to qualify for higher level study in the environmental sciences, biochemistry, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary sciences.

Chemistry is also an excellent preparation for a business career since the successful study of Chemistry develops the key employment skills of presentation, problem solving and communication. A Level Chemistry is a good course to study alongside biology, geography, mathematics or physics. It is usually best to take Chemistry in combination with one of these subjects.

What is the course about?

The content of the A Level Chemistry specification obviously includes the fundamental key concepts of chemistry necessary for progression into higher education and employment but it has been carefully planned to allow students enough time to study the units in depth and to provide a very practical experience for all students. This ensures that both the teaching and learning experience is enjoyable.

How is it assessed?

Assessment of A Level Chemistry consists of three units that are assessed through written examinations at the end of the two year cycle in the May/June of that year's summer examination series. There are a minimum of 12 core practicals that go towards a certificate of general practical competency awarded separately to the A Level. These core practicals will also be assessed as part of one of the written papers.

Where will it take me?

There are a wide variety of chemical science degree courses available to successful A Level chemists. Courses vary in content, duration and the qualification achieved. Some of the most popular types of courses include:

- BSc degrees which provide an excellent training in the chemical sciences and can open doors to careers in a huge range of employment sectors.
- MChem/MSci degrees which usually involve a significant research project and offer opportunities to further develop the key employment skills of presentation, problem solving and communication.
- Chemistry with Industrial Experience degrees provide a period of study in industry either in the UK or abroad.
- Chemistry with a year abroad degrees involve a taught year at a university in Europe, the USA, Asia or Australia.

The study of Advanced GCE Chemistry should also be seen as making a contribution towards life-long learning.