

CHEMISTRY - A LEVEL (A Linear Course)

Course introduction

Ever wondered who was behind developing the latest shampoo or painkiller? Ever thought about the people who discovered treatments for cancer or AIDS? Well, chemists are behind these discoveries and developments and those that will shape our lives in the future. Chemistry is all around us; in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the 'stuff' that makes our lives easier.

Entrance requirements

Students who wish to study Chemistry must have acquired a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at 4-9, including English Language at a 4 or above and Maths at 6 or above along with at least a Grade 6 in Core and Additional Science (or Chemistry) GCSE.

How the course is taught

Chemistry is taught using a mixture of practical, group work, problem solving and whole class teaching, tailored to specific needs. You will be expected to read around the subject independently and complete regular homework. One to one sessions are offered to students requiring extra help.

Areas covered by the course

At A Level you will cover aspects of physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry as well as practical investigations.

Career opportunities

Chemists work in almost every industry and environment you could think of, from the food industry to drug research, working in the bleak landscapes of Antarctica to state-of-the-art laboratories in renowned universities. Even if you do not want to become a career chemist, an A Level Chemistry qualification gives you a set of skills that could help you to become a Vet, Doctor, Pharmacist, Engineer, Geneticist, Geologist or even a Space Scientist.



How the course is assessed

A Level Assessment

You will complete three papers covering physical, organic, inorganic chemistry and practical skills assessment.

Paper 1:

What is assessed

- Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 to 3.1.8 and 3.1.10 to 3.1.12)
- Inorganic chemistry (section 3.2)
- Relevant practical skills

How is it assessed

- 2 hour written exam

Paper 2:

What is assessed

- Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2. to 3.1.6 and 3.1.9)
- Organic chemistry (section 3.3)
- Relevant practical skills

How is it assessed

- 2 hour written exam

Paper 3:

What is assessed

- Any content
- Any practical skills

How is it assessed

- 2 hour written exam

The A level is designed as a two year course – students would be expected to sit all of the exams at the end of Year 13.

