

Chemistry AS/A level

Introduction

Chemistry is the study of the nature of matter and how it can be changed from one form to another. Chemists are interested in how useful materials can be made and why substances behave in particular ways. The study of Chemistry develops the imagination and encourages students in their own thinking. Students experience Chemistry for themselves; essential chemical ideas are developed through practical work. The course is well suited to those who may want to use chemistry to support other qualifications or to progress on to further study. A-level Chemistry is required for some Higher Education courses e.g. Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, and is desirable for many other science-based courses. Chemistry qualifications are highly regarded, so, with a Chemistry AS or A-level, you could choose to follow a career in one of many other areas e.g. Architecture, Accountancy, Journalism, Computing and Teaching.

Year 1

In the first year you will study three units one of which is a practical assessment unit.

Unit 1 is examined in January with an opportunity for a re-sit in June. This unit revisits and builds on the essential chemical ideas studied at GCSE and extends them further to covers some new ideas such as intermolecular forces and shapes of molecules.

Unit 2 is examined in June. This unit builds on ideas covered in unit 1 and introduces new topics in organic and physical chemistry.

Unit 3 is a practical assessment unit. Practical skills are developed throughout the year and are assessed at appropriate times, mainly in the second half of the year.

Year 2

In the second year you will build on the skills and knowledge developed in the first year. There are opportunities to re-sit AS units in January and June.

Unit 4 is examined in January with an opportunity to re-sit in June. This unit covers more advanced topics in organic chemistry and analytical techniques.

Unit 5 is examined in June and covers more advanced topics in inorganic and physical chemistry.

Unit 6 is a practical assessment unit. Practical skills are developed throughout the year and are assessed at appropriate times, mainly in the second half of the year.

Assessment

Apart from the practical assessment, all units are assessed by written exams.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in Maths and grade B or C in core and grade B in additional science or grade C in chemistry. Students taking Chemistry are strongly advised to also take a second science or maths.