

SUBJECT: Chemistry

QUALIFICATION: AS/A2

QUALIFICATION LEVEL: Level 3

QUALIFICATION TYPE: GCSE AS/A2 level

AWARDING BODY: OCR

CATEGORY: Science

Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN): H034/H434

DESCRIPTION

The recently updated OCR Chemistry A-level specification explores the traditional elements of A level chemistry together with newly introduced applied aspects of chemistry such as environmental chemistry and analytical techniques. The two-year course now includes Practical Skill Assessments, which are a series of internally assessed practical's.

The course is well resourced and pupils will benefit from dedicated textbooks, CD ROMs and student guides and are taught by experienced and supportive teachers.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The AS course introduces and explores the fundamental concepts of structure and bonding that will underpin future units. Trends in properties and reactivity are explained and pupils carry out quantitative calculations for a variety of reactions. Later in the year pupils are introduced to basic concepts in organic (carbon) chemistry and examine energy and equilibrium changes for chemical reactions.

The A2 course builds on the AS course by further exploring more complex structures and reactions in organic chemistry as well as introducing the principles and interpretation of a variety of analytical techniques. Later in the year pupils learn about rates, equilibria, pH and energetics from a quantitative perspective and explore the unusual properties of Transition elements. Throughout the course pupils will build upon their practical skills, which will be regularly examined via an ISA type internal examination.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Grade B in GCSE Chemistry or Additional Science.
Grade B in Maths

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS

Atoms, Bonds and Groups: External exam (January) – 30%

Chains, Energy and Resources: External exam (June) – 50%

Practical Skills in Chemistry 1: Coursework internal exams (all year) – 20%

A2

Rings, Polymers and Analysis: External exam (January) – 30%

Equilibria, Energetics and Elements: External exam (June) – 50%

Practical Skills in Chemistry 2: Coursework internal exams (all year) – 20%

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES?

A level Chemistry is an essential requirement for students undertaking a number of degree courses including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Chemical engineering, Pharmacy and many others. A-level Chemistry is also a preferred subject for those students wishing to follow degrees in other technical/scientific subjects such as Biology, Geology, Forensic Science, Physiotherapy and the Environmental and Earth Sciences.

This A level also provides opportunities for careers in various fields including Hospitals, Quality assurance and other fields which require logical skills like Banking or Accountancy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Pupils who enjoy applying logic and knowledge to solve problems and who have the ability to understand abstract concepts and models will suit this course. The course also will appeal to those students who enjoy practical chemistry and have the ability to use and manipulate sensitive equipment.

The AS course will be centred at both Hilbre and Pensby Schools while the A2 course will use the combined facilities of both schools.