

GCSE CHEMISTRY SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

The following are important features of this specification.

- It offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.
- The course comprises two theory units (Units 1 and 2), which are designed to be taught in the first and second years of the course respectively, and a practical skills assessment unit (Unit 3), which is made up of Booklet A and Booklet B.
- Students carry out a variety of prescribed practical activities, which are highlighted throughout the specification. These are assessed in a practical skills assessment in the second year of the course.
- The specification allows students to develop transferable skills that will benefit them in vocational training and employment. It also enables them to progress to the study of chemistry, science and related courses at GCE Advanced level and Advanced Subsidiary level.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

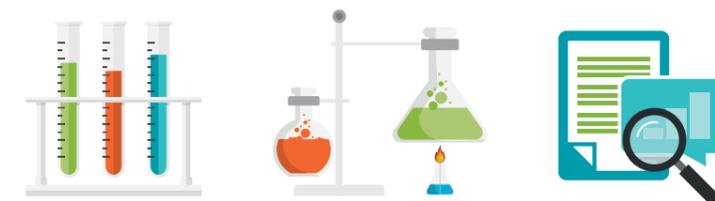
This CCEA specification in GCSE Chemistry provides a broad, coherent and practical course that develops confidence in and a positive view of science. It encourages students to appreciate the value of science in their lives and in the wider world around them.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The specification provides a thorough preparation for the study of chemistry and related courses at GCE Advanced Subsidiary level and Advanced level. It also allows students to develop transferable skills that will benefit them in vocational training and employment. It gives students the opportunity to develop the ability to apply skills to real-life contexts.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for students to contribute to the aim and objectives of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4, and to continue to develop the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The extent of the development of these skills and capabilities will be dependent on the teaching and learning methodology used. Please see the specification for more details.



UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

Students carry out investigations to develop their skills and knowledge of practical science.

Units 1 and 2 are each assessed by a written examination at either Foundation Tier (grades C*–G) or Higher Tier (grades A*–D/E). Unit 3 is an externally assessed practical skills unit in two parts: Booklet A and Booklet B. Booklet A has two practical tasks based on the prescribed practicals. Booklet B is a timetabled, externally assessed exam taken at the end of the final year of study. It consists of questions about planning and carrying out any of the prescribed practicals, as well as more general questions about any practical situation that arises from the specification.

The following skills are assessed:

- planning an investigation;
- carrying out an experiment;
- analysing experimental data; and
- drawing conclusions from an experiment.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis	External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations. Foundation Tier: 1 hour Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 mins	35 %	Summer from 2018
Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry	External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations. Foundation Tier: 1 hour 15 mins Higher Tier: 1 hour 30 mins	40 %	Summer from 2019

SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017
For first assessment in Summer 2018
For first award in Summer 2019

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
Unit 3: Practical skills	Booklet A Externally marked Students carry out two pre-release practical tasks in the final year of study. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 2 hours	7.5%	Between 1 January and 1 May from 2019 (beginning in 2019)
	Booklet B External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour	17.5%	Summer from 2019

*The information in this table is still subject to regulatory approval.

SUPPORTING YOU

We intend to provide:

- past papers;
- mark schemes;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- Principal Moderator's reports;
- guidance on progression from Key Stage 3;
- planning frameworks;
- centre support visits;
- support days for teachers; and
- a resource list.

CONTACT US

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

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