



Rewarding Learning

GCSE Chemistry

STUDENT
GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

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 you to appreciate the value of chemistry and science in your life and in the wider world.

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

This specification aims to encourage you to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of the material world;
- develop your understanding of the effects of chemistry on society;
- develop your understanding of the importance of scale in chemistry;
- develop and apply your knowledge and understanding of the nature of science and of the scientific process;
- develop your understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations;
- develop your awareness of risk and the ability to assess potential risk and potential benefits;
- develop and apply your observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills and understanding in laboratory, field and other learning environments;
- develop your ability to evaluate claims based on chemistry through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions both qualitatively and quantitatively; and
- develop your skills in communication, mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

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



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	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	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	Summer from 2019
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 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	Between 1 January and 1 May from 2019 Summer from 2019

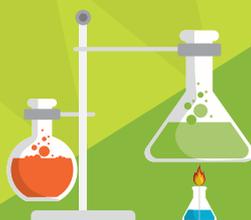
*The information in this table is still subject to regulatory approval.



Unit 1

Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis

35%



Unit 2

Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry

40%



Unit 3

Practical Skills

25%

WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also gives you opportunities 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.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN CHEMISTRY?

The specification provides a thorough preparation for the study of chemistry and related courses at GCE Advanced Subsidiary level and Advanced level. It allows you to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in vocational training and employment, for example in the following areas:

Energy and the environment

Chemistry is helping us to cope with increasing pressures on energy, food, water and other natural resources.

Human health

Chemistry is helping to improve and maintain human health through the development of new and improved pharmaceutical drugs and drug delivery systems.

Lifestyle and recreation

In lots of different ways, chemistry is all around us.

To read more about the above areas and other possible career options, see the Royal Society of Chemistry website at www.rsc.org/careers/future/your-future-chemistry

