



Rewarding Learning

GCSE

Science

Double Award

**STUDENT
GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION

Our GCSE Double Award Science qualification 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 science in your life and in the wider world around you.

WHY STUDY DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE?

This specification aims to encourage you to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of the material, physical and living worlds;
- develop your understanding of the effects of science on society;
- develop your understanding of the importance of scale in science;
- 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 science 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 qualification is unique to Northern Ireland.

The practical skills unit is part of the qualification; other awarding bodies do not count practical skills towards the overall GCSE.

You will gain two GCSEs for completing this qualification.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT
Biology Unit B1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity	External written examination You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour
Chemistry Unit C1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis	Externally written examination You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour
Physics Unit P1: Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion	External written examination You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour
Biology Unit B2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health	External written examination You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins
Chemistry Unit C2: Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry	External written examination You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins
Physics Unit P2: Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics	External written examination You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT
Unit 7: Practical Skills	<p>Booklet A Externally marked</p> <p>You will carry out three pre-release practicals in your final year of study.</p> <p>There are two tiers of entry.</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tiers: 3 hours (Biology 1 hour, Chemistry 1 hour and Physics 1 hour)</p> <p>Booklet B External written examination</p> <p>You will answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>There are two tiers of entry.</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 30 mins (Biology 30 mins, Chemistry 30 mins and Physics 30 mins)</p>

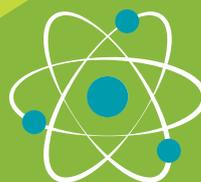
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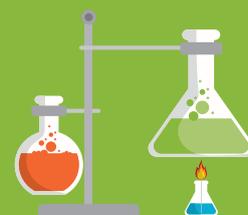
Biology



Chemistry



Physics



Practical Skills

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



The specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for you 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 DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE?

It provides a thorough preparation for the study of sciences and related courses at GCE Advanced Subsidiary level and Advanced level. It also allows you to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in vocational training and employment.

