

## Chemistry A Level FAQs



### **What is Chemistry?**

Chemistry is the study of matter, investigating its composition, structure, properties and behaviour. It is a science that helps us to explain the world around us. Everything that we do in life involves chemistry, from the chemical reactions that occur inside our bodies to those that occur high up in the earth's atmosphere.

The content of the Chemistry A level course is split into six teaching modules:

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry
- Module 3 – Periodic table and energy
- Module 4 – Core organic chemistry
- Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

### **What grades do I need to do A level chemistry?**

You need a minimum of 6-6 in your science GCSEs including a 6 or above in the Chemistry component. You also need to have a 6 in your maths GCSE.

### **Can I do A level chemistry if I did combined science at GCSE?**

Yes, if you have achieved at least a 6-6 in your science GCSEs you can do A level Chemistry.

### **How much practical work will I get to do in chemistry?**

Chemistry is a practical subject. You will be given many opportunities to develop your understanding of the course through practical activities. You will get the opportunity to use a wide range of scientific apparatus and techniques that you will not have come across at GCSE.

The practical skills that you learn are assessed throughout the course and contribute towards a practical endorsement which is recorded as a pass or fail. They are also assessed in the written exams.

### **What is the exam board?**

The exam board is OCR and the course is called 'OCR AS and A level Chemistry A'  
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/>

**How many exams are there?**

There are three exams at the end of year 13. The first two exams are 2 hours 15 mins long and each exam is worth 37% of the overall grade. The final exam is 1 hour 30 mins and worth 26% of the overall grade.

**What type of questions are in the exam?**

There is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

**Is there any coursework?**

No, there is no coursework in A level Chemistry.

**Why do I need at least a grade 6 in maths to do A level Chemistry?**

A strong mathematical understanding is essential in chemistry. Mathematical skills make up 20% of the marks available so you need to be working at a Grade 6 minimum, in Maths, to access the chemical calculations.

**The requirements for the university course I want to do asks for A level chemistry, is that true?**

Some university degree courses, such as Medicine, require an A level in Chemistry. If you have a particular degree course in mind, please check to see if they require a particular A level. That said, if you haven't yet decided what university course or apprenticeship you want to do, choosing A level Chemistry will allow you to keep your options open.

**What do those who study Chemistry A level go onto do?**

Many of our students go on to study a variety of subjects, such as: Chemistry, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Medical Sciences, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Veterinary Science, Veterinary Nursing, Sports Science, Geology and Environmental Science.

**Can I get in touch if I have any other questions?**

Yes, you can email:

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