

Exams Officers guide to AQA GCSE Science

Our new GCSE Science specifications reflect feedback from science teachers and the wider scientific community. This quick reference guide outlines the changes and the optional routes through the qualifications. There are various options for those wanting to offer GCSE Sciences over three years (see [sciencelab.org.uk](https://www.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab.org.uk)).

GCSE Science summary

A new GCSE Science B is now available and the old GCSE Applied Science (Double Award) is being phased out.

The new options for the majority of schools/colleges are:

One GCSE	Science A	or	Science B		
Two GCSEs	Science A	+	Additional Science		
	Science B	+	Additional Applied Science		
	Science A	+	Additional Applied Science		
	Science B	+	Additional Science		
Three GCSEs	Physics	+	Biology	+	Chemistry

The assessment units are shown overleaf, with percentage values and assessment length.

Key changes

- There are no more objective tests.
- All new science specifications use combined question and answer booklets.
- Only one re-sit is allowed for each external assessment (prior to certification).
- Written assessments are available in January and June (except for Science B which assesses in November, March and June).
- The 40% terminal assessment rule applies.

AQA GCSE Science specifications – unit and award structure

- Pathways read from left to right but available units can be taken in any order.
- ‘CA’ = Controlled assessment.
- Boxes show the unit title, the length of the assessed unit and the percentage value of that unit.

Unit	Unit	Unit	Unit	Award
Biology 1 1 Hour 25%	Chemistry 1 1 Hour 25%	Physics 1 1 Hour 25%	Science A CA 25%	Science A Route 1
	Science Combined Assessment 1 1½ Hour 35%	Science Combined Assessment 2 1½ Hour 40%	Science A CA 25%	Science A Route 2
Biology 2 1 Hour 25%	Chemistry 2 1 Hour 25%	Physics 2 1 Hour 25%	Additional Science CA 25%	Additional Science Route 1
	Additional Science Combined Assessment 1 1½ Hour 35%	Additional Science Combined Assessment 2 1½ Hour 40%	Additional Science CA 25%	Additional Science Route 2
Biology 1 1 Hour 25%	Biology 2 1 Hour 25%	Biology 3 1 Hour 25%	Biology CA 25%	Biology
Chemistry 1 1 Hour 25%	Chemistry 2 1 Hour 25%	Chemistry 3 1 Hour 25%	Chemistry CA 25%	Chemistry
Physics 1 1 Hour 25%	Physics 2 1 Hour 25%	Physics 3 1 Hour 25%	Physics CA 25%	Physics
‘My World’ 1 Hour 25%	‘My Family and Home’ 1 Hour 25%	‘Making My World a Better Place’ 1 Hour 25%	‘Using Practical and Investigative Skills’ CA 25%	Science B
		Science at Work 1 hour 40%	How Scientists Use Practical Techniques CA 60%	Additional Applied Science

Specification	Specification code	Unit and entry code	Unit and entry code	Unit and entry code	Unit and entry code	Subject award code
Science A – route 1	4405	Unit 1 BL1FP or BL1HP	Unit 2 CH1FP or CH1HP	Unit 3 PH1FP or PH1HP	Unit 4 SCA4P	4405
Science A – route 2	4405	Unit 5 SCA1FP or SCA1HP	Unit 6 SCA2FP or SCA2HP		Unit 4 SCA4P	4406
Additional Science – route 1	4408	Unit 1 BL2FP or BL2HP	Unit 2 CH2FP or CH2HP	Unit 3 PH2FP or PH2HP	Unit 4 AS4P	4408
Additional Science – route 2	4408	Unit 5 AS1FP or AS1HP	Unit 6 AS2FP or AS2HP		Unit 4 AS4P	4409
Biology	4401	Unit 1 BL1FP or BL1HP	Unit 2 BL2FP or BL2HP	Unit 3 BL3FP or BL3HP	Unit 4 BL4P	4401
Chemistry	4402	Unit 1 CH1FP or CH1HP	Unit 2 CH2FP or CH2HP	Unit 3 CH3FP or CH3HP	Unit 4 CH4P	4402
Physics	4403	Unit 1 PH1FP or PH1HP	Unit 2 PH2FP or PH2HP	Unit 3 PH3FP or PH3HP	Unit 4 PH4P	4403
Science B	4500	Unit 1 SCB1FP or SCB1HP	Unit 2 SCB2FP or SCB2HP	Unit 3 SCB3FP or SCB3HP	Unit 4 SCB4P	4502
Additional Applied Science	4505	Unit 1 AAS1 FP or AAS1 HP	Unit 2 AAS2			4507

- Students take one option from each box (ie **either** ‘higher’ or ‘foundation’).
- Some units may be offered as on-screen tests in future.
- **Not all on-screen options are available in every series (see the Entry Codes booklet).**
- Where on-screen tests are available, please replace the last letter ‘P’ with ‘S’ in the entry code.
- Students **can** take 4405 with 4502, or 4406 with 4502 (ie Science A **and** Science B).







Supporting Exams Officers and Teachers in GCSE Science

Key support services

-  **Exampro Extra Online** Free interactive resources for AQA GCSE Science teachers
-  **Teacher Support Online** Multi-media presentations to help you plan, teach and assess
-  **Preparing to teach** Free meetings and online support
-  **Enhanced Results Analysis** A free online tool for you to analyse your results

Key resource services

-  **The Science Lab** A new online community for GCSE Science teachers: sciencelab.org.uk/resourcezone
-  **Your GCSE Science library** Access to specifications, specimen question papers and mark schemes
-  **Nelson Thornes resources** Sign up to teach, receive free printed samples and order full blended resources
-  **Ask AQA** A bank of questions and answers, plus the facility to ask your own questions

To keep up-to-date with our new GCSE Science specifications, simply register at sciencelab.org.uk

