

Chemistry

(Exam Board: OCR Salters B)
Linear September 2015

Subject Leader:

Dr E Searle

What do I need?

You should have studied GCSE Combined Science or Chemistry and achieved a minimum grade 6 in Chemistry for Triple award or a minimum grade 6-6 for Combined Science. GCSE Maths needed (at least grade 5).

To achieve the qualification you must:

- Complete three A level papers (code H433) to get a certificate for Advanced GCE CHEMISTRY

In contrast to the traditional ‘topic based’ approach, Chemistry OCR B (Salters) is ‘context led’.

Chemistry OCR B (Salters) is designed to be taught in context. The course takes students on a journey through ten Storylines, while introducing chemical concepts in a spiral approach. The Storylines engage students through learning in a contemporary context and range from concerns about the ozone layer to the development of new medicines.

- This specification has been developed in consultation with University of York Science in Education Group , the Royal Society of Chemistry, GlaxoSmithKline and in consultation with OCR.
- It is the only A level Chemistry specification based on a complete course package, with integrated course books and activity sheets designed at the same time as the specification.
- This specification is uniquely different from other A Level specification because:
 - it starts from applications and develops the theory as required
 - it introduces chemical topics in one unit and then revisits them in later units, so that student learning has a chance to mature and is then reinforced
 - all external units in the examination ask all the questions in context
 - there is an Advance Notice article included in an A level unit which can be studied, researched and discussed by students well in advance of the exam.

How will I be assessed?

For AS (H033)	
Teaching units	Assessment method and weighting
Paper 1 Foundations of chemistry	70 marks exam 50%
Paper 2 Chemistry in depth	70 marks exam 50%
For A Level (H433)	
Teaching units	Assessment method and weighting
Paper 1 Fundamentals of chemistry	110 marks exam 41%
Paper 2 Scientific literacy in chemistry	100 marks exam 37%
Paper 3 Practical skills in chemistry	60 marks exam 22%

AS Chemistry is an independent qualification to A level Chemistry. It is no longer routine for students to sit the AS exams, but the units are still taught in the same order as Y12 of the A level specification.

Non-exam assessment

Practical endorsement for chemistry.

Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance reported separately to the A level grade. A pass or fail is recorded. A certificate issued.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Other subjects that would go well with Chemistry GCE Advanced level are Biology, Mathematics and Physics. However, other combinations of subjects including Geography are also suitable.

With a qualification in Chemistry you could go on to Further or Higher Education, studying Chemistry or one of the other sciences or related subjects, such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Food Science, Chemical Engineering, or work in science-based industry, the medical field or agriculture. See www.chemsoc.org