

Chemistry

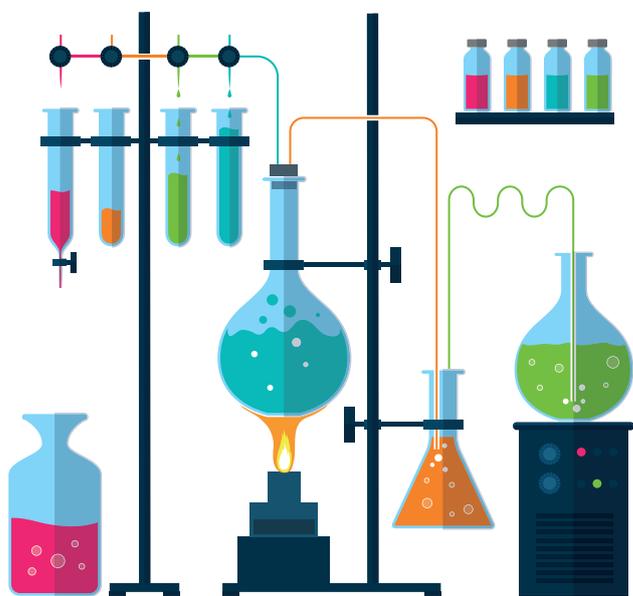
GCE Student Guide

If you are considering doing an A level in Chemistry, you will probably have lots of questions.

This guide will help to answer some of those questions, and encourage you to think seriously about studying Chemistry beyond GCSE.

Chemistry is often described as the 'central science' as it ties all the other sciences together; you may already have discovered this in your GCSE course.

GCE Chemistry builds on your GCSE knowledge and allows you to develop skills which will help you in a wide range of areas. Read on and find out how much this subject has to offer.



Why study Chemistry?

The understanding and application of chemistry is essential in our modern world. Everything you use on a daily basis will have been developed by a chemist. As our modern world develops further, we need to find ways to feed a growing population, cure new diseases and manage the world's energy resources.

Chemistry holds the answers to all these big questions. Studying GCE Chemistry will allow you to learn about new technologies which are being developed. Throughout the course you will build on your GCSE knowledge and develop a deeper understanding of the atom and the properties and analysis of different substances. You will also be developing your practical skills and ability to work with others as you and your peers synthesise and analyse many different substances.

Studying GCE Chemistry requires enthusiasm, commitment and attention to detail – qualities which are invaluable to employers. It is no surprise that an A level in Chemistry opens the doors to many wide and varied career options which are discussed later in this guide.

If you are interested in the world around you, like solving problems and have enjoyed studying Chemistry so far, then read on to find out what an A level in Chemistry can lead to.

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What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1	Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry
AS 2	Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry
AS 3	Basic Practical Chemistry
A2 1	Further Physical and Organic Chemistry
A2 2	Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry
A2 3	Further Practical Chemistry

How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Multiple choice and structured questions	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 2	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Multiple choice and structured questions	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 3	Practical booklet A – taken in the laboratory 1 hour 15 minutes Practical booklet B – taken in the examination hall 1 hour 15 minutes	20% of AS 8% of A level
A2 1	External written examination 2 hours Multiple choice and structured questions	40% of A2 24% of A level
A2 2	External written examination 2 hours Multiple choice and structured questions	40% of A2 24% of A level
A2 3	Practical booklet A – taken in the laboratory 1 hour 15 minutes Practical booklet B – taken in the examination hall 1 hour 15 minutes	20% of A2 12% of A level

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What can I do with a qualification in Chemistry?

A GCE qualification in Chemistry will allow you to develop many important skills – for example analytical skills, working in a team and problem solving. You will be recognised as someone who has worked with determination to achieve the qualification.

Chemistry opens doors to many varied careers; this is because the subject requires such a broad skill set. There are many websites which will highlight the career options. The following, from the Royal Society of Chemistry, is particularly good:
www.rsc.org/careers/future/what-jobs-can-i-do

We are also very fortunate in Northern Ireland to have excellent higher education options. For example:
www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofChemistryandChemicalEngineering
www.science.ulster.ac.uk
www.belfastmet.ac.uk
The Regional Colleges

A GCE in Chemistry will give you many options for either pursuing the subject further or for studying in an area which is related to Chemistry. Many of the careers are laboratory-based but there are also a large number which are not. The following website gives good advice about careers in Chemistry:
www.futuremorph.org/14-16/next-steps/follow-your-favourite-subject/careers-from-chemistry

Finally, one of the biggest industries which Chemistry can lead to is chemical engineering. The following website is very useful for finding out more about chemical engineering: www.whynotchemeng.com

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

