

GCSE SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

The following are important features of this specification.

- It offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.
- It allows students the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their practical skills.
- All units are externally assessed; teachers do not mark any of the components.
- It provides a meaningful, relevant programme of study to equip students for vocational studies in science or entry into the world of work.
- Students can resit each unit once.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

This CCEA specification in GCSE Single Award Science provides a broad, coherent and practical course that develops confidence in and a positive view of science. It encourages students to appreciate the value of science in their lives and in the wider world around them.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The specification supports the aim of the Northern Ireland Curriculum to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for students 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. Please see the specification for more details.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

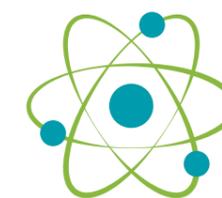
Units 1, 2 and 3 include a number of practical tasks that students carry out during the course. Nine of these are prescribed practicals. All of the nine prescribed practicals should be taught during the course. Unit 4: Practical Skills has two parts: Booklet A and Booklet B. We set and mark both booklets.

Booklet A is a practical skills assessment. It assesses students' ability to plan and carry out two practical tasks based on (but not identical to) the nine prescribed practicals listed in the specification. Booklet B is a written, externally assessed examination taken during the final year of study. This assesses students' knowledge and understanding of practical science. It consists of questions about planning and carrying out any of the prescribed practical tasks, together with more general questions about any practical situation that arises in Units 1, 2 and 3.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT
Unit 1: Biology	External written examination Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.
Unit 2: Chemistry	External written examination Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.
Unit 3: Physics	External written examination Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.
Unit 4: Practical Skills	Booklet A Practical skills assessment Foundation and Higher Tiers: 2 hours Students carry out two pre-release practical tasks (from two of Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in the final year of study. Booklet B External written examination Foundation Tier: 1 hour Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 mins Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations all set in a practical context for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

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



SUPPORTING YOU

In person

As your local awarding organisation, we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer if you would like to arrange for us to visit you and your department.

At teacher-focused events

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support the specification, which includes:

- FREE launch events to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will issue invitations to heads of departments at least three weeks in advance of each event.

Regularly check our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk

Online

Most of the support we provide will be available on our subject microsite. The site will contain:

- the latest version of the GCSE Single Award Science specification;
- planning frameworks;
- Chief Examiner's reports, with top tips for improving examination performance;
- exemplar papers and mark schemes; and
- exemplification of standards (available after the first examination series).

We also intend to provide:

- past papers;
- mark schemes;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- guidance on progression from Key Stage 3;
- planning frameworks;
- centre support visits;
- support days for teachers.

CONTACT US

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

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SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT



For first teaching from September 2017

For first assessment in February 2018

For first award in Summer 2019



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