



CHEMISTRY

Examination Board

- OCR (A)

Year 12 Course

Content Overview

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry
- Module 3 – Periodic table and energy
- Module 4 – Core organic chemistry
- Two exams at the end of Year 12, both covering content from all 4 modules.

Year 13 Course

Content Overview

- Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment Overview

- Three official exams at the end of Year 13:
- Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (Paper 1) assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
100 marks – 2 hours and 15 minutes written paper
37% of total A level
- Synthesis and analytical techniques (Paper 2) assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.
100 marks – 2 hours and 15 minutes written paper
37% of total A level
- Unified chemistry (Paper 3) assesses content from all modules (1 – 6).
70 marks – 1 hour and 30 minutes written paper
26% of total A level

Note that the Year 12 exams do not contribute to the final A level mark and therefore 2 years of content is assessed in the Year 13 exams.

Coursework

The A Level Sciences no longer have a traditional coursework component. You will have to complete 12 practical techniques and you will be assessed on these in class and via the written exams. Students will receive a 'pass' in the Chemistry Practical Endorsement if they can demonstrate that they are consistently competent in all 12 practical techniques. The Practical Endorsement is expected to be an entry requirement for science degrees.



Useful websites / reading materials

All students have been given a Chemistry Handbook which they should read regularly so that they can get the best learning experience of studying chemistry. It also includes a course checklist for them to manage their learning.

During lessons students will have access to the course textbook, **shown in bold type below**. They have also been given a handbook at the beginning of Year 12.

It is strongly recommended that students purchase this textbook for their own use at home (and in lessons if they prefer). They can also personalise their learning by annotating the text using highlighter pens, spider diagrams, cross referencing to their own written notes.

Class textbook: **A level Chemistry A for OCR, OUP Oxford, ISBN 978-0-19-835196-2**
OCR AS/A Chemistry 2nd edition, Pearson, ISBN 978-1-4479-7650-9

There are other resources available for students to help them with their study of chemistry:

- The Resources Centre has a selection of A Level Chemistry textbooks for students to consult, either to assist their understanding, or to broaden their knowledge. Students may also find books of interest at their local library.
- Periodicals such as New Scientist or Scientific American
- The school receives a package of journals aimed at both staff and students from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Students will probably not wish to read these from cover to cover but they are a valuable reference source and some of the articles are fascinating! They can use ideas that they have read about to include in the UCAS personal statement.
- The Internet has huge amounts of chemical information; we can help with suggestions of suitable websites but there are many more waiting to be discovered! The most important website is the OCR course website. They can download the specification for the course; past papers and mark schemes.
- http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/science/chemistry_a/

Other websites include:

www.open2.net/survey/learningstyles/

www.chemguide.co.uk

<http://www.rsc.org/Chemsoc/>

<http://www.creative-chemistry.org.uk/>

<http://drb-chemistry.wikispaces.com/>

Recommended study

- Approximate 5 hours of Chemistry per week, increasing when there are examinations to prepare for.

Independent Study:

- Reading over and writing up notes in neat
- Completing set homework tasks
- Answering and self-assessing past paper questions
- Preparing for coursework (practice graphs, tables, data analysis etc)
- Watching science programmes on TV / online
- Reading ahead for the next lesson
- Small group revision and study sessions