

GCSE Science at Ratton

Course overview – the units

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
B1 Cell Biology	C1 Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table	P1 Energy
B2 Organisation	C2 Bonding, Structure and Properties of Matter	P2 Electricity
B3 Infection and Response	C3 Quantitative Chemistry	P3 Particle Model of Matter
B4 Bioenergetics	C4 Chemical Changes	P4 Atomic Structure
B5 Homeostasis and Response	C5 Energy Changes	P5 Forces
B6 Inheritance, Variation and Evolution	C6 Rate and Extent of Chemical Change	P6 Waves
B7 Ecology	C7 Organic Chemistry	P7 Magnetism and Electromagnetism
	C8 Chemical Analysis	(P8 Space – Separate Science only)
	C9 Chemistry of the Atmosphere	
	C10 Using Resources	

Combined and Separate Science – the difference!

- **All** students start to study the AQA GCSE Science course in Year 9 – they cover units for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students are initially selected to be in a separate science or combined science group – this is subject to change in Year 10 dependent on progress and attainment over the year.
- The Trilogy Combined Science course covers a wide range of units in all three Science disciplines and students sit 6 exam papers at the end of Year 11. Students are then awarded 2 overall grades from the average scores from these exams.

Combined and Separate Science – the difference!

- Students who have consistently performed well across their Year 9 Science units and have shown good progress in their numeracy and literacy skills will follow the AQA Separate Science course in Years 10 and 11.
- The Separate Science course requires a high standard of scientific understanding and interest as well as strong numeracy and literacy skills.
- The Separate Science course is taught as three different subjects, with 2 final exams in each subject.
- Students receive a separate grade for each of the Sciences.

Key Points

- Science is a core subject – all students will study either Combined or Separate Sciences.
- There are no controlled assessments or coursework components – both courses are 100% exam. Students will cover a considerable number of required practicals in their lessons – these will be assessed in the exams.
- Both courses cover the same biology, chemistry and physics units (with the addition of a Space physics unit for separate science)
- Both have the same number of exams covering the same units, however, separate science exams are longer in duration to reflect the increased amount of content.
- Separate Science will require students to have strong numeracy skills in particular.

What do the exams look like?

- Combined Science exams (Paper 1)
[Biology combined science paper 1](#)
[Chemistry combined science paper 1](#)
[Physics combined science paper 1](#)
- Separate Science exams (Paper 1)
[Biology paper 1](#)
[Chemistry paper 1](#)
[Physics paper 1](#)

Where can your Science GCSE lead?

- Local colleges will accept both Combined Science GCSEs and Separate Science GCSEs (subject to the grades achieved) for entry to A-level courses.
- Many careers have links to the Sciences – healthcare, engineering, sports science, the beauty industry, environmental science, the list is never ending!
- In today's society, a good, rounded understanding of scientific concepts is key in giving us the skills to evaluate claims and information when making decisions that impact our health, well-being and everyday life.