CHEMISTRY

OCR A Chemistry A Level (H432)

Chemistry sits between Physics and Biology and overlaps with both. It is the study of elements and compounds, the composition of materials and their properties; thinking on a small scale about the interactions of atoms and electrons, and on a larger scale about the reactions which help shape and mould our modern world. Chemistry's application in modern society is pivotal to the world we now live in, making this classical subject both contemporary and exciting.

Chemistry is a highly respected subject that synergises well with the other Sciences, Mathematics and a variety of other subjects; students often choose Chemistry to develop and illustrate their strength in analytical thinking, problem solving, and numeracy. Most importantly, studying this subject will genuinely change the way you look at the world, as well as develop transferable problem-solving and analysis skills that you will value throughout your life.

Course Requirement Recommendations

There is no specific entry tariff for the OCR A Level course, but it would be recommended that students have a minimum of Grade 7 in GCSE / IGCSE Chemistry. It is not necessary to study A Level Maths to succeed at A Level Chemistry, but to take a chemistry-related subject any further than A Level, A Level Maths is a useful addition.

What does A Level Chemistry lead to?

Chemistry is a highly relevant and valuable subject for pupils with aspirations in Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics. Good grades in A Level are essential for students aiming to study; medical-related degrees such as medicine, veterinary science, dentistry and pharmacy; chemical industry-related degrees such as chemistry, chemical engineering and materials science; biotech-related degrees such as biology and biochemistry and related courses such as forensics and geology. A sound chemical education also promotes powers of analytical thinking valuable to those seeking careers in areas such as law, accountancy, banking and journalism.

Structure of the Course

The OCR A Level course is linear in nature and is composed of a set of three terminal examinations. Additionally, the course comprises a compulsory practical (CPAC). This takes the form of a minimum of 12 practical activities which are assessed internally against exam board criteria.

Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements & Physical Chemistry (37%)
Paper 2: Synthesis & Analytical Techniques (37%)
Paper 3: Unified Chemistry is synoptic over both years of course (26%).

Exam Board: OCR

Assessment: 100% Written Examination (Divided into 3 papers)

Chris Birch, Head of Chemistry