



Parents' Information Evening – GCSE Sciences

Course Structure

At EWS we follow the **Edexcel GCSE Science** courses. Students have been following this course since Year 9 and will be assessed in the summer of 2022. The majority of students follow the Combined Science course but some students opted to follow the Triple Science pathway. Key information about each course is summarised below:

Course	Combined	Triple
Number of GCSEs awarded	2 GCSEs in Combined Science	3 – one in each subject: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics
Grading	A combined double grading based on total marks attained in all papers	An individual grade for each subject GCSE
Tiers available	Higher (grades 4-4 to 9-9) and foundation (grades 1-1 to 5-5)	Higher (grades 4 to 9) and foundation (grades 1 to 5)
Number of paper sat in summer 2022	6 papers – 2 x Biology; 2 x Chemistry; 2 x Physics	6 papers – 2 x Biology; 2 x Chemistry; 2 x Physics
Length of each paper	1 hour 10 minutes	1 hour 45 minutes
Link to specification (s) [This details all the content students need to know ready for their exams]	Combined Science Specification	GCSE Biology Specification GCSE Chemistry Specification GCSE Physics Specification
Link to past papers	Past Papers – look for papers that include “combined” in their titles	Past Papers – look for papers that do not include “combined” in their titles

NB. Further detail on examinations from the exam board can be found [here](#).

Tiering

We will use the grades attained by students in the assessments across Year 11 to determine the best choice of tier for the summer examinations. The exam board advises that students are consistently working at a grade 5 or above to be entered for the higher tier papers. This means if you son/daughter would like to sit the higher tier papers in the summer they need to evidence this in their assessments throughout the year.

Changes to Summer 2022 Examinations

As a result of the disruption due to COVID students will be told in advance some of the topic areas that will be included on the exam papers, helping them to manage their exam preparation. This information will be issued in the spring term. Students will also be provided with the Physics equations sheets in the exam room so will not need to memorise these.

Revision

As we reach the end of teaching new material to our Year 11s we will begin revision with them in class. However, students should now be revising material outside of lessons to give them the best chance of success. We recommend the following revision guides if your son/daughter does not currently have one:

Combined students:

REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Higher Guided Revision Workbook ISBN: 9781292213750

REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Higher Revision Guide ISBN: 9781292131634

REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Foundation Revision Guide ISBN: 9781292131597



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REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Foundation Guided Revision Workbook ISBN: 9781292213743

Triple students:

REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Physics Higher Revision Guide ISBN: 9781292133706

REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Chemistry Higher Revision Guide **ISBN: 9781292131924**

REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Biology Higher Revision Guide **ISBN: 9781292131719**

We have also designed a science revision hour to help support students' with their revision. A different topic will be set each week on Go4Schools and checked by their class teachers. The hour will include the following:

1. **RECALL** - Filling in as much information as they can remember on a topic from memory. (10 minutes)
2. **NOTES** – Watching GCSE Pod videos teaching a topic and making notes as part of this. (30 minutes)
3. **QUIZZING** – Using cover, write and check to test themselves on the material they have just learnt. (10 minutes)
4. **TESTING** – Without notes completing GCSE Pod quiz questions from memory. (10 minutes)

Students who are not completing their revision hours will have the opportunity to do so on a Friday lunchtime but we would really appreciate your support in reminding students to complete this each week to the best of their ability.

Alongside the revision hour students should also be regularly quizzing themselves on key science knowledge. Students should identify the topic they need to focus on and read through the key knowledge (from the revision guide or revision mat). Then they should try to recall as much as possible from memory before checking what they are missing. This process should be repeated until they can recall all of the key information. They should return to this topic a few days and then a few weeks later to help secure it in their long-term memory.

We are also running targeted intervention sessions after school for students who we think would benefit from some additional science teaching. The students invited to these sessions will be updated after each assessment.

Key Contacts

If you have any further queries regarding GCSE Science please contact:

- Katie Gillick on **North** (Acting Learning Leader for Science): katie.gillick@ewsacademy.org.uk
- Adele Parry on **South** (Acting Learning Leader for Science): adele.parry@ewsacademy.org.uk