

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Examining Board: OCR – Chemistry (A)

Link tutor: Mrs P Forbes

Chemistry A is split into six modules which combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

The modules can be summarised as:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and within the Practical Endorsement
- Module 2: Foundations in chemistry covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules.
- Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy
- Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry
- Module 5: Physical Chemistry and the Transition Metals
- Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis

The content is tested via three exam papers: **Paper 1** contains a mixture of multiple choice and structured questions and assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. **Paper 2** contains a mixture of multiple choice and structured questions and assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. **Paper 3** contains a mixture of structured and extended response questions and assesses the content from all the Modules 1 to 6. There is an additional pass/fail practical assessment which does not contribute to the overall grade from the written papers.

Any student who wishes to study the subject for one year only can gain an AS qualification by taking the two AS exam papers which test modules 1 to 4.

Lesson style:

A mixture of practical work, discussion work (often based on work students have prepared in advance), IT-based work and problem solving. The course has a wide range of activities prepared for it to which we have added our own.

Time Allocation: 8 hours per fortnight plus homework tasks. **Private Study Requirement:**

Homework is set after most lessons. This may be preparation of work for the following lesson, including research tasks, or problems to test understanding of what has been taught. Students should expect to spend a minimum of 4 hours per week on the subject in addition to lesson time.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

Visits to universities, research facilities and companies which make use of chemistry. **Advisable for the following careers:** As well as for degrees in Chemistry itself, it is a required A level for entry into Medical and Veterinary courses and also for Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Biomolecular science, Pharmacy, Forensic Science and Food related sciences such as nutrition. A large number of Chemistry graduates go on to work in science-based jobs, but many make use of the problem solving skills they have developed in sectors ranging from IT and finance to law. **Good Combination with:** it is sensible to include at least one of the following - Maths, Physics, Biology, Geography, Food Technology