

A-Level Chemistry – Course Guide

Regardless of whether you did triple or combined chemistry, and whether you achieved a 7 or a 9, A level chemistry can represent a significant step up from GCSE.

This course guide is here to help introduce our expectations for A level chemistry, as well as including the schemes of work for both year 12 and 13 so you can see how the course is organised.

Homework expectations

Homework remains a key part of the course, and a significant amount will be set. We recommend using your free periods to help stay on top of this work. There are three elements to your regular homework:

- **Looking back** – questions from the textbook looking at previous content.
- **Looking forward** – textbook pages that you are expected to read ahead of your next lesson and take notes on. Your class teacher will inform you of the format these notes should take.
- **Independent study** – for each topic, you will be provided with a set of exam questions and answers to complete at your own pace. The only expectation is that these are completed by the time you sit your topic test.

Please do communicate if you are feeling overwhelmed by the volume of work so that we can provide appropriate support. The aim of our homework policy is to develop independent learners, and we will hope to reduce the homework set by teachers as the year goes on so that you can focus on topics that you wish to focus on.

Practical endorsement expectations

It is crucial that you pass the practical element of the course. This is assessed by a series of “core practical’s;” the exam board expects a minimum of 12 to be completed, but we will be aiming to complete 16. In these, you will be assessed based on key skills. The aim is that you demonstrate progress in these key skills and develop into an independent lab practitioner.

Specific instructions and expectations will be given ahead of each core practical, but the key principle is that you are responsible for completing core practical work to a high standard. Additionally, make sure you prioritise attendance to core practicals, or you may have to catch up on practical work in your own time.

Organisation expectations

Your teacher may decide to issue an exercise book, but regardless, you are expected to be responsible for keeping all your notes in a sensible order and bringing all relevant materials to lessons. Keeping on top of your folder is a new and incredibly important part of your study, so make sure you are developing good habits here.

Make sure that you have access to and are regularly checking email, Teams and Satchel One. If you are having any issues accessing these platforms, inform your teacher as soon as possible.

Year 12	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
Topic	Teacher 1	Teacher 2	Teacher 1	Teacher 2	Teacher 1	Teacher 2
	Topic 5 – Formulae and amounts	Topic 1 – Atomic structure	Topic 6 – Organic chemistry I	Topic 8 – Energetics I	Revision for end of year exams	Revision for end of year exams
	Topic 3 – Redox I	Topic 2 - Bonding	Topic 7 – Spectroscopy	Topic 9 – Kinetics I	Topic 11 – Equilibrium II	Review of practical portfolios and addressing any missed core practicals
	Topic 4 – Periodicity		Core practicals 4, 5, 6	Topic 10 – Equilibrium I	Core practical 5 & 6 (trip)	
	Core practicals 1, 2, 3, 7			Core practical 8		
Assessment	- Baseline assessment - End of topic assessments		Year 12 exam week – topics 1-6A, 6B End of topic assessments		Progression exam – all AS topics End of topic assessments	
*Assessment Objectives	AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence					
Enrichment	Trip to Dulwich College for core practical 5 & 6 Chemistry Olympiad Cambridge Challenge Chemistry in Action Spectroscopy in a box Intervention for PP students and students struggling to achieve their target grade. Application to Medicine/Veterinary/Dentistry preparation sessions					

Year 13	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
Topic	Teacher 1	Teacher 2	Teacher 1	Teacher 2	Teacher 1	Teacher 2
	Topic 12 – Acid equilibria Topic 13 – Entropy Topic 16 – Kinetics II Core practicals 9, 10, 11	Topic 17 – Organic chemistry II Topic 18 – Organic chemistry III Core practical 16	Topic 15 – Transition elements Topic 14 – Redox II Core practical 12, 13, 14	Topic 19 – Spectroscopy II Core practical 15	Revision and exam preparation; final review of practical portfolios	
Assessment	- End of year 12 mock resits - October mock assessments - End of topic assessments		- End of topic assessments - Year 13 exam week – paper2 & paper 3 (all topics covered, with an emphasis on practical skills)			
*Assessment Objectives	AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence					
Enrichment	Chemistry Olympiad Intervention for PP students and students struggling to achieve their target grade Application to Medicine/Veterinary/Dentistry preparation sessions					