



A Level Chemistry

What Entry Requirements Do I Need?

The minimum requirement is a GCSE Grade 6 in Chemistry or Combined Science and also GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is based on final examinations (100% of marks) plus a practical endorsement, which is based on the successful completion of 12 required practical investigation ("PAGs"). In the final year there are three written examinations based on modules comprising subject knowledge and practical skills, testing both breadth and depth of understanding.

Additionally, examinations will test knowledge and understanding of practical work. Students would be awarded an A Level grade for their examination performance and a 'Pass'/'Fail' for practical work during the course.

We will regularly monitor your learning through the use of assignments, end of unit tests and written assessments throughout the course. You will receive feedback to help you develop and improve your skills and guide you towards your target grade. We also put on additional support and intervention sessions where you can drop in to speak to your tutors and receive extra help or advice if you need it.

What Will I Learn on This Course?

Throughout the course you will develop:

- A deep knowledge and understanding of all aspects of chemistry, with a focus on key underlying principles and practical applications
- Important independent learning skills, which will help you to 'think outside the box'
- Practical skills in experimentation and investigative work
- Research, communication and IT skills
- Organisational skills

You will also learn about the three disciplines of Chemistry: Organic Chemistry; Inorganic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry. These will include the following six modules:

1. Development of practical skills in chemistry
2. Foundations in chemistry
3. The periodic table and energy
4. Core organic chemistry
5. Physical chemistry and transition elements
6. Organic chemistry and analysis

Why study chemistry?

Chemistry is an incredibly fascinating field of study for its own sake. Because it is so fundamental to our world, chemistry plays a role in all our lives and touches almost every aspect of our existence in some way. In addition, chemical technologies enrich our quality of life in numerous ways by providing new solutions to problems in health, materials, and energy usage. Thus, studying chemistry is useful in preparing us for the real world.

Chemistry is often referred to as the central science because it joins together physics and mathematics, biology and medicine, and the earth and environmental sciences. Knowledge of the nature of chemicals and chemical processes therefore provides insights into a variety of physical and biological phenomena. Knowing something about chemistry is worthwhile because it provides an excellent basis for understanding the physical universe we live in. Everything is chemical!

Where Will an A Level in Chemistry Lead Me?

Besides being a requirement to study any chemistry-related subject at higher education and beyond or enter a chemistry-related career, an A-level in the subject opens many other doors. Because of its fundamental scientific nature and its good development of practical, analytical and problem-solving skills, chemistry is recognised as being an essential requirement for medical and veterinary schools and many branches of engineering. However, AS or an A Level in Chemistry does not necessarily mean a career in Science. What it does show is an aptitude to work and think in a clear, systematic manner – a quality that many employers in many fields look for.