



ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY

Excellence for All

GCSE Combined Science

Aims

We aim to stimulate our students' curiosity and enjoyment of Science. Through the curriculum modules, the students are able to be familiar with a wide body of scientific knowledge, principles and vocabulary. This development of knowledge and skill will help them to understand and use scientific methods safely.

We encourage students to work individually and as part of a team, in order to develop an awareness of the implications of Science for the individual, the community and the environment.

The Course

Students will be studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics that will join together to form the new Combined Science GCSE, which will be worth **two GCSEs**. Students will complete practical work as part of their lessons not only to support the learning but to also develop the students' skills. Students will follow the Pearson Edexcel course which builds upon the knowledge the students have gained at the Development Stage.

Assessment

All of the examinations for Combined Science will be taken at the end of Year 11.

There are **six papers** in total which will result in 2 GCSEs for the combined Science:

2 for Biology, 2 for Chemistry and 2 for Physics.

Each paper is 1hr 10mins – 60 marks (16.7% of the GCSE)

Practical work is no longer externally assessed in the form of coursework.

Instead, knowledge of **Core Practicals** that are delivered during lessons are assessed as part of the final exam papers.

Questions based on practical activities will make up at least 15% of the final exam papers.

Two tiers of entry will be available, Foundation Tier covering grades 1-5 and Higher Tier covering grades 4-9.

Post 16 Opportunities and Careers

The Academy currently runs A-level courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Some colleges also provide other Science based courses which include a Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science.

Exam Board Information

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science (1SC0)

The specification can be found here:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#tab-0>

This documents explains how Edexcel writes the question papers:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/Edexcel-GCSE-Science-Explaining-our-exams-guide.pdf>

Contact

Mr T Moseley – Core Subject Leader of Science ✉ t.moseley@eda.staffs.sch.uk