



**Teddington
School**

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Executive Headteacher: John Wilkinson MA
NPQH*

Dear Families,

At this week's year 11 parent consultation evening, the science department shared some very useful guidance. We wanted to make sure that all families received this guidance. We know this is a very important time for you and your child and want to provide you with as much information as possible to help you support them at home. Please do note below the Saturday revision sessions that the Science department will be holding shortly.

The information below is in 2 sections: (1) for students studying Combined Science and (2) for students studying the three separate Science GCSEs.

Yours sincerely

Ms Pacey

(1) Year 11 GCSE Combined Science Guidance

Specification details:

AQA Combined Science (Trilogy) 8464:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE assessment format:

Each student will sit six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and lasts 1hr 15mins.

Higher vs Foundation tier:

This is the first year of a new specification which will be assessed against a new grade 9-1 scale. In order to allow for students to achieve a grade 9, a significant amount of new, higher level content is now included. This means this year's Higher papers are more challenging than the Higher papers for the legacy Core and Additional Science qualifications. We are therefore expecting to enter many more students for the Foundation paper than in previous years.

Students can achieve up to maximum Grade 5 on the Foundation paper; while students taking the Higher paper have the opportunity to achieve Grades from 4 up to 9.

Students who achieved no higher than a Grade 4 in their mock exam will be entered for the Foundation tier papers in order to give them the best opportunity to achieve a Grade 5 in their final GCSE. There may, of course, be some exceptions to this and these will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Mock Grades:

The exam papers we used for the mocks were provided by our exam board, AQA, together with the mark schemes. Unfortunately the exam boards do not provide the grade boundaries as these change each year depending on the cohort and the difficulty of the paper.

We have therefore set the grade boundaries based on a number of factors:

- Our experience of the AQA grade boundaries in previous years
- Benchmarking with other schools, both those in our MAT and others
- Using guidance from Pixl, (Partners in Excellence), a not-for-profit partnership of over 1,700 secondary schools, 600 sixth forms, 500 primary schools, and 75 providers of alternative education
- The experience of our Maths department who went through the first year of their new specification last year

We are intending to hold a further set of mocks just before the Easter holidays so that students have the opportunity to be assessed on the Paper 2 content.

We are expecting all students to improve on their mock exam results in their actual GCSEs, as a result of the work they will be completing both in school and at home between now and the actual GCSE assessments.

Teacher-led Revision Sessions:

A number of our experienced Science teachers have volunteered to run a series of Saturday revision sessions over the upcoming months and you will receive information about booking attendance at these shortly.

Some students will also be invited to attend after-school intervention sessions focused on key topics.

Following the Easter holidays, we will also be providing structured revision lessons covering the most difficult topics in each subject during your child's timetabled Science lessons. Furthermore, we are currently producing a checklist outlining all the topics that students need to revise for Biology, Physics and Chemistry, broken down into 30 minute chunks. This supports them in applying the revision techniques shared with them at their recent study skills session. The checklists will be available here on Firefly:

<https://teddington.fireflycloud.net/science/new-gcses-first-sat-2018>

Recommended revision resources:

Websites:

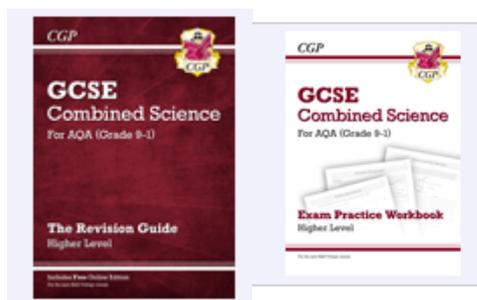
1. <https://www.aqa.org.uk/student-support/for-students/revision/revision-resources>
2. <https://www.my-gcsescience.com> (My-GCSE Science - designed to help students studying sciences for all of the examination boards, including AQA. Each video is accompanied by revision notes and more videos are added every week).

3. <https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/science> (There are plenty of revision resources to be found here which students can work through independently, testing their knowledge. All students have been provided with a login. Username is: **initial.surname** (eg j.smith) and the password is: **teddington**)
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv> (GCSE Bitesize - a revision aid website with subject overviews, interactive activities and questions on a variety of topics from all syllabi and examination boards).
5. <https://mathsmadeeasy.co.uk/gcse-science-revision/> (A large bank of Science exam questions).
6. <https://www.s-cool.co.uk/> (S-cool - Choose an activity, revise it, test it and remember it! S-cool includes overviews, exam style questions, multiple choice questions and revision summaries on a whole range of GCSE science topics.
7. <https://studywise.co.uk/gcse-revision/> (Study Wise – gives links to more resources)

Revision guides and exam practice workbooks:

The CGP guides following the AQA specification can be purchased from their website (or on Amazon):

https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/books_gcse_science_combined



- New Grade 9-1 GCSE Combined Science: AQA Revision Guide with Online Edition – **(HIGHER)** (SAHR45)
- New Grade 9-1 GCSE Combined Science: AQA Revision Guide with Online Edition – **(FOUNDATION)** (SAFR45)
- New Grade 9-1 GCSE Combined Science: AQA Exam Practice Workbook – **(HIGHER)** (SAHQ41)
- New Grade 9-1 GCSE Combined Science: AQA Exam Practice Workbook – **(FOUNDATION)** (SAFQ41)

(2) Year 11 GCSE Physics, Chemistry and Biology Guidance

Welcome to Year 11 parents evening. We know this is a very important time for you and your child and want to provide you with as much information as possible to help you support them at home. Unfortunately we have limited time to talk face-to-face with you tonight, so we have prepared some information you can take away with you and refer back to over the coming weeks and months.

Specification details:

AQA GCSE Biology (8461) <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

AQA GCSE Physics (8463) <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462) <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

GCSE assessment format:

Each student will sit six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and lasts 1hr 45mins.

Higher vs Foundation tier:

This is the first year of a new specification which will be assessed against a new grade 9-1 scale. In order to allow for students to achieve a grade 9, a significant amount of new, higher level content is now included. This means this year's Higher papers are more challenging than the Higher papers for the legacy Core , Additional and Further Additional Science qualifications. We are therefore expecting to enter more students for the Foundation paper than in previous years.

Students can achieve up to maximum Grade 5 on the Foundation paper; while students taking the Higher paper have the opportunity to achieve Grades from 4 up to 9.

Students who achieved no higher than a Grade 4 in their mock exam will be entered for the Foundation tier papers in order to give them the best opportunity to achieve a Grade 5 in their final GCSE. There may, of course, be some exceptions to this and these will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Mock Grades:

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Revision guides and exam practice workbooks:

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https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/whoAreYou.books_gcse_chemistry_revision

https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/whoAreYou.books_gcse_physics_revision

Revision websites:

<https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/science> There are plenty of revision resources to be found here which students can work through independently, testing their knowledge. All students have been provided with a login. Username is: **initial.surname** (eg j.smith) and the password is: **teddington**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv>

www.chemrevise.org

www.physicsclassroom.com/

www.my-gcsescience.com

<https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/category/new>