



Wakefield Girls' High School
Wakefield

Technical Information

A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
Chemistry		AQA

A-level Examinations:

Name	Content	Method of Assessment	Marks
Paper 1	Inorganic Chemistry, with relevant physical chemistry Relevant practical skills	Written exam: 2 hours	105 marks: 35%
Paper 2	Organic Chemistry, with relevant physical chemistry Relevant practical skills	Written exam: 2 hours	105 marks: 35%
Paper 3	All practical skills All content	Written exam: 2 hours	90 marks: 30%

WGHS Senior School

(Girls 11-18 years)
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Course Guide

A-level Chemistry

Chemistry

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

A-level Chemistry builds on the knowledge, understanding and practical skills developed at GCSE.

You should have gained at least a grade 7 in Chemistry or a grade 7 in the Chemistry component of Double Award Science although most students who choose Chemistry have a higher grade. You should have also gained at least a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

The A-level course

The A-level course covers topics in greater depth. It places emphasis on why things happen in Chemistry

- Why do atoms form bonds?
- Why do reactions take place?
- Why is sodium very reactive?
- Why are some acids weak?

How is the course assessed?

Examinations

- At A-level Papers 1, 2 and 3 are 2 hours each
- All papers are taken in June

Practical and Investigative skills

- Practical work will be assessed in the written papers. 15% of the total A-level marks will be for practical knowledge and understanding
- At A-level a separate 'endorsement' of practical work will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded. If students pass, it will be reported on their certificate, otherwise it will not be reported.

Course Description

In the A-level course:

- Many of the topics will be familiar to you from GCSE: atomic structure, periodic table, chemical bonding, energy changes, extraction of metals, acids and alkalis, rates of reaction
- Other topics will be less familiar: chemical equilibrium, transition metals, most of the Organic Chemistry
- Practical work is an essential component of the course and is closely integrated with the theory. You will follow a programme of individual assignments, which is designed to reinforce theory work and to develop your practical skills
- You will be assessed on your ability to carry out, interpret and evaluate experiments

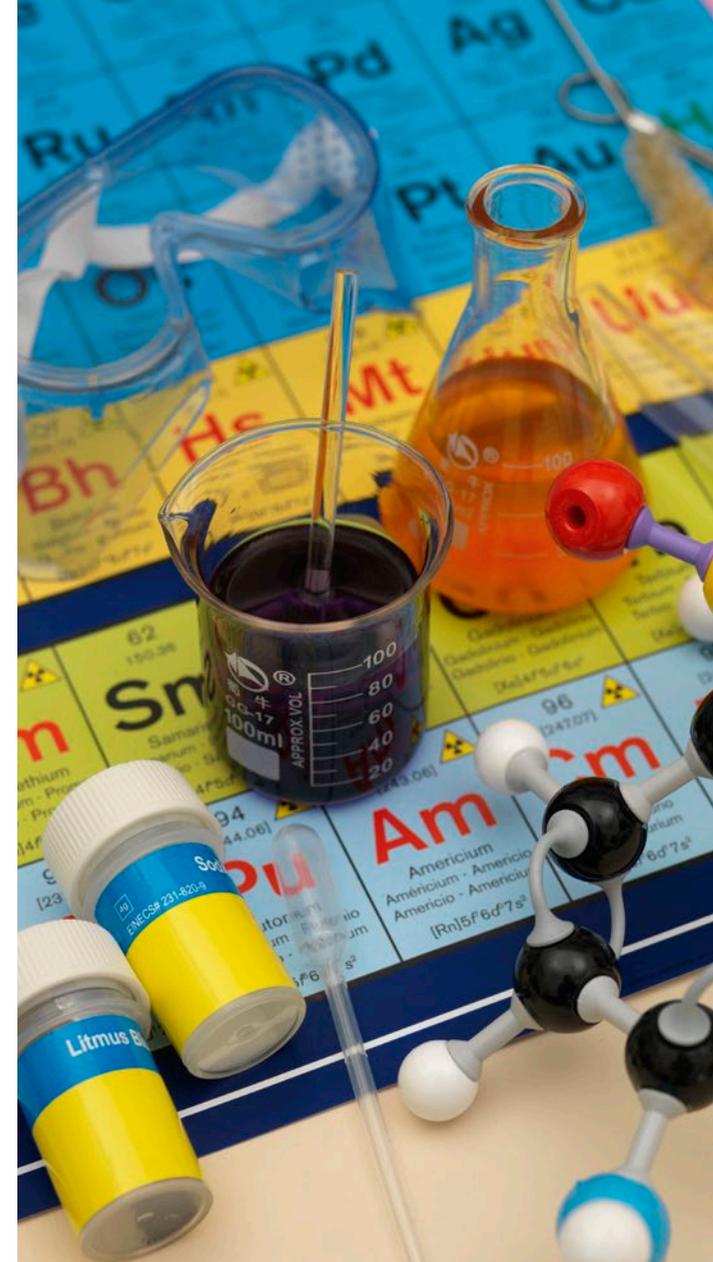
The A-level course aims to:

- Stimulate your interest and enjoyment in Chemistry
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the subject. You will consider why things happen in Chemistry. Why atoms form chemical bonds, why chemical reactions take place
- Develop not only your practical skills but also your ability to communicate ideas, solve problems, work as part of a team and make use of IT
- Make you more aware of the relevance of Chemistry to society. Chemists are at the forefront of new developments in plastics, medicines and textiles, in improving the quality of our food and in helping to maintain and improve our environment

Use of Course and Qualification

You may want to use your A-level in Chemistry:

- As a subject which links well with other A-levels such as Physics, Biology or Food Technology
- As a means of progressing on to further study at university. An A-level in Chemistry is an entry requirement for many Science and Technology courses. Potential medical students usually study Chemistry as one of their A-level subjects
- As a step towards a possible career in Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Food Science, Nursing, Chemical Engineering and Forensic Science
- As preparation for many non-scientific careers. Employers are increasingly appreciative of the general skills, such as problem solving, logical thought, numeracy and practical skills, which the course develops



Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: Dentistry

A-level Chemistry stretches my abilities and pushes my skills. I really enjoy it as it allows me to test myself. The practical work allows you to get hands-on experience and gain a better understanding of the molecular components that make up our world.