



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: Exams Officer/Head of Science

Date: February 2014

Subject: GCSE Twenty First Century Science A (J241) and Additional Science A (J242)

CHANGE TO QUESTION PAPERS FOR JUNE 2014 SERIES – REMOVAL OF THE MIXED SCIENCE PAPERS

After the conclusion of the summer 2013 series, OCR are no longer offering the mixed-science papers A141, A142 and A143 for GCSE Science A. All candidates certificating Science A from summer 2014 onwards will sit the A161, A171 and A181 question papers (separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics papers) in their terminal session. These will be coupled with the existing Controlled Assessment Unit A144 (Case Study and Practical Data Analysis).

Similarly, we will no longer offer the mixed-science papers A151, A152 and A153 for GCSE Additional Science A. All candidates certificating Additional Science A will sit the A162, A172 and A182 question papers (separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics papers) in their terminal session. These will be coupled with the existing Controlled Assessment Unit A154 (Practical Investigation).

As you are probably aware, all science GCSEs will be assessed using a 'linear' (i.e. 100% terminal) model from 2014 onwards. As a result, it will no longer be necessary to have two routes to GCSE Science A and two routes to GCSE Additional Science A, because candidates will sit all of the externally assessed units at the end of the course. Therefore, different teaching routes through the modules will no longer have any impact on the order in which candidates sit the examinations.

Another impact of the removal of mixed papers is that it will no longer be possible for candidates to certificate for a mixed science qualification (Science A, Additional Science A, Further Additional Science A) and any of the separate science qualifications (Biology A, Chemistry A, Physics A) in the same series. It will only be possible to certificate for Science A, Additional Science A and/or Further Additional Science A, **or** Biology A, Chemistry A and/or Physics A in the **same series**. It is still permissible to take Science A in Year 10 and then Additional Science **or** separate sciences in Year 11.

If you have any queries about this notice, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998.