

# GCSE (9–1) Science

Combined and Separate Sciences factsheet  
J247, J257, J248, J258, J249, J259, J250, J260

## Combined Science Grades

## Separate Science Grades

### 50% OF MARKS

in Higher Tier papers cover grades from 9-9 to 7-6

### 50% OF MARKS

in Higher Tier papers cover grades from 6-6 to 4-4

Combined Science content contains the same specification statements as found in Separate Sciences. Therefore, these are identical in level and demand in both Combined and Separate Sciences and are examined as such. The extra content found in Separate Sciences is not more difficult but just extra topics.

Hence a grade 7 in Combined Science is the same standard as a grade 7 in a Separate Science.

### KEY

- Higher Tier only
- Higher and Foundation Tier
- Foundation Tier only

The highest grade available on the Foundation Tier is 5-5 (5)

### 50% OF MARKS

in Foundation Tier papers cover grades from 5-5 to 3-3 (5 to 3)

### 50% OF MARKS

in Foundation Tier papers cover grades from 3-3 to 1-1 (3 to 1)

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

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### 50% OF MARKS

in Higher Tier papers cover grades for 9 to 7

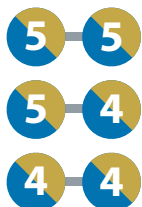
### 50% OF MARKS

in Higher Tier papers cover grades for 6 to 4

The advice provided on this sheet is **for guidance only**. Teachers are best placed to make decisions for their students.

## Across Separate and Combined Sciences:

### COMMON GRADES



**20%**  
OF MARKS

targeted at grades common to  
Higher and Foundation Tier

### MATHS DEMAND

#### Higher Tier

Not lower than demand  
expected for Foundation Tier  
GCSE Maths



#### Foundation Tier

Not lower than demand  
expected of students at  
Key Stage 3 Maths

### PRACTICAL



**MINIMUM**  
**15%**  
OF MARKS

assess practical skills, in both  
tiers across all components and  
assessment objectives

## Separate or Combined? What to consider when making entries

CONSIDER ENTERING STUDENT FOR SEPARATE SCIENCES

MOSTLY YES

#### ACHIEVEMENT

Does the student achieve  
better in one Science over the  
other two?

#### ATTENDANCE

Are you confident the student  
will attend all the exam  
papers?

#### STAMINA (Gateway Only)

Are you confident the student  
will be able to work through  
longer exams?

Low achievement in one  
science will affect the overall  
Combined Science grade.  
In Separate Sciences, low  
attainment in one Science  
does not affect the others

Combined Science exams  
all feed into the final grade.  
If one is missed, it will affect  
the overall double grade. In  
Separate Science, missing an  
exam will only affect one out of  
three grades.

Combined Science exams in  
Gateway are  
70 minutes each. Separate  
Science exams are 105  
minutes long

MOSTLY NO

CONSIDER ENTERING STUDENT FOR COMBINED SCIENCES