

**Twenty First Century Science Suite**

Biology B (J257); Chemistry B (J258); Physics B (J259); Science B, Combined (J260)

**Gateway Suite**

Biology A (J247); Chemistry A (J248); Physics A (J249), Science A, Combined (J250)

# Your guide to the changes for 2021

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Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please [use the specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

## Overview of changes for GCSE (9–1) Science

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking GCSE Science in summer 2021 are allowed to watch demonstrations and/or simulations to cover the required apparatus and techniques if they are unable to carry out practical science activities.

- There is still a requirement for students to learn the skills and techniques related to practical activities (at least 8 activities for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, at least 16 activities for Combined Science).
- If students are unable to carry out practical science activities, they are able to watch a teacher demonstration or a video, or use a simulation.
- All assessments remain the same.
- A minimum of 15% of the marks on the assessment will still test the apparatus and techniques covered by the practical activity groups (PAGs).
- A 2021 version of the NEA Centre Declaration form will still need to be signed and submitted.

## Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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🐦 [@OCR\\_Science](https://twitter.com/OCR_Science)

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