AS/A Level Chemistry A

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This course has been designed to enable centres to deliver the designated units using the framework provided or to design a customised course. This flexible approach is also reflected in the assessment model.

The specification is divided into chemical topics, each containing different key concepts of Chemistry. Once the key features of a chemical topic have been developed, applications are considered. For assessment purposes, knowledge and understanding of key concepts are treated separately at AS; important links between different areas of chemistry are largely assessed synoptically at A2. While the teaching of practical skills may be integrated with the theoretical topics, they are assessed separately. This allows skills to be developed in a way suited to each individual centre.

What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- This specification has been developed in consultation with the Royal Society of Chemistry, GlaxoSmithKline and a large variety of teachers in OCR Centres throughout the country.
- There is an increased emphasis on understanding and application rather than recall.
- How Science Works integrated within the learning outcomes/opportunities.
- Straightforward assessment of practical skills using OCR set tasks with specific (non-hierarchical) mark schemes.
- Course builds upon the existing popular OCR Chemistry course. Has been updated in response to modern developments in chemistry and also the impact of chemistry on modern society and resources.
### AS Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory/Optional?</th>
<th>Unit title and description</th>
<th>Assessment method and weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mandatory           | F321: Atoms, Bonds and Groups  
  • Atoms and Reactions  
  • Electrons, Bonding and Structure  
  • The Periodic Table | 1 hour written exam  
  AS Level – 30%  
  A Level – 15% |
| Mandatory           | F322: Chains, Energy and Resources  
  • Basic Concepts and Hydrocarbons  
  • Alcohols, Halogenoalkanes and Analysis  
  • Energy  
  • Resources | 1 hour 45 min written exam  
  AS Level – 50%  
  A Level – 25% |
| Mandatory           | F323: Practical Skills in Chemistry 1  
  • AS internal assessment | Internal assessment  
  AS Level – 20%  
  A Level – 10% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory/Optional?</th>
<th>Unit title and description</th>
<th>Assessment method and weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mandatory           | F324: Rings, Polymers and Analysis  
  • Rings, Acids and Amines  
  • Polymers and Synthesis  
  • Analysis | 1 hour written exam  
  A Level – 15% |
| Mandatory           | F325: Equilibria, Energetics and Elements  
  • Rates, Equilibrium and pH  
  • Energy  
  • Transition Elements | 1 hour 45 min written exam  
  A Level – 25% |
| Mandatory           | F326: Practical Skills in Chemistry 2  
  • A2 internal assessment | Internal assessment  
  A Level – 10% |

### How is this qualification assessed?

Two units at AS and A2 level are assessed through written examination.

One unit at AS and A2 level are assessed through internal assessment.

All written paper units are available in both January and June series.

Practical skills units are available in the June series only.

### Dates of first examinations

**AS**
- Atoms, Bonds and Groups – Jan 2009
- Chains, Energy and Resources – Jun 2009
- Practical Skills in Chemistry 1 – Jun 2009

**A2**
- Rings, Polymers and Analysis – Jan 2010
- Equilibria, Energetics and Elements – Jun 2010
- Practical Skills in Chemistry 2 – Jun 2010

### What support will I receive?

**Training**

A series of OCR courses to introduce the new specification will be available as well as an annual INSET programme to support teachers and provide feedback on recent examinations.

**Publishers**

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Heinemann is publishing materials for the 2008 A Level Chemistry A specification.

**Resources**

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).

- Schemes of Work
- Teachers’ and Technicians’ guide
- Sample Assessment Materials.