

NEW AS GCE in Science

H178 replacing 3885:

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specification for first teaching in 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Science specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Science.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19levels

Current specification – mapping the changes

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Outline specification for first teaching September 2008

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QCA Have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve AS GCE in Science remains at 3
- Coursework is retained as controlled assessment



3885. Candidates must complete all three units. Both components of unit 2843 must be taken.



Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Science and the Natural Environment	2841 Mandatory 30% AS 1 hr Exam		Updated content. Some content moving to Unit 2 (G642)		
AS Science and Human Activity	2842 Mandatory 30% AS 1 hr Exam		Updated content.		
AS Interpreting Scientific Information/ Experimental and Investigative Skills	2843				
AS Interpreting Scientific Information	2843/01 20% A2 1 hr Exam	Coursework requirement remains but under controlled assessment conditions.	Current scheme is disappearing, to be replaced with new controlled assessment.	QCA requirements and the need to reduce the amount of assessment teachers have	
AS Experimental and Investigative Skills	2843/02 20% A2 Coursework				

All units are mandatory.



	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Remote sensing and the natural environment	G641 Mandatory 30% AS 1hr written exam	Updated and new content included. Unit is shorter to allow centres maximum opportunity to enter candidates in January.	Resources from Heinemann INSET programme Schemes of Work for guidance Sample Assessment Materials
AS	Science and Humanity Activity	F652 Mandatory 50% AS 1hr 45min written exam	Updated and new content included.	
AS	Practical Skills in Science	G643 Mandatory 20% AS Internal Assessment	Candidates do one case study and one practical based task. Centres access tasks and mark schemes from OCR secure website. Carried out at a time convenient to the centre, under controlled conditions.	

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