

Yr 11 GCSE Evening

SCIENCE

9th October 2008

What courses are being studied?

- Students who opted to do Biology, Chemistry & Physics as separate GCSE subjects complete their 2 year courses.
- For those students who completed their Core Science Course in year 10, there are two possible routes. Either

an Additional Science GCSE course (AQA 4463)

or an Additional Applied Science course (AQA 4863)

How are Biology, Physics & Chemistry GCSE assessed?

- In November 2007 or March 2008, students will have the option of taking re-sits of any of the modular exams studied last year. These account for 25% of the final marks
- In January 2008, students take three 45min exams, one in each subject. These exams also make up 25% of the final marks.
- In June 2008, students take three more 45min exams, again one in each subject. These exams again make up 25% of the final marks.
- Throughout the course students do Individual Skills Assessments (ISA's) in normal lessons. The best ISA result in each science subject is selected and that makes up the final 25% of the marks.

How is Additional Science assessed?

- In June 2008, students take 3 exams, each lasting 45mins. These exams have structured exams (SAT's style questions) and each exam accounts for 25% of the final marks
- Students will also carry out an Individual Skills Assessment (ISA). This is identical to the one completed for Core Science in Year 10 but is set in a different topic area. It is completed in normal lessons and accounts for the final 25% of marks.

How is Additional Applied Science Assessed

- Students do one 45min exam in June 2008. This accounts for 40% of the final marks.
- Students compile a portfolio of work throughout the course. This is internally assessed and accounts for 60% of the final marks.

Exam Dates - Core Science Re-Sits Biology, Physics & Chemistry GCSE

Re-sits of Year 10 Core Science Modules

20th November 2008

4th March 2009

22nd June 2009

Revision classes for November exams run from 5th-19th November

Individual Sciences GCSE's

Biology - 12th January 2009 & 20th May 2009

Chemistry - 15th January 2009 & 4th Jun 2009

Physics – 19th January 2009 & 10th June 2009

Revision classes for November Re-Sits

All revision classes will run from 3.00pm -4.00pm

Past exam papers can be viewed/downloaded from the following web address

www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/newscience/extassessover.php

Exam Dates – Additional Science & Additional Applied Science

Additional Science (3 exams)

Biology 20th May 2009

Chemistry 4th June 2009

Physics 10th June 2009

Additional Applied Science (1 exam)

4th June 2009

Individual Skills Assessments (ISA's)

- Individual Sciences GCSE's students and Additional Science GCSE's students do ISA's in normal lessons. An ISA is an externally set skills paper which students sit after investigating a problem experimentally. They are asked questions on data interpretation from the investigation and on their knowledge of good scientific practice. ISA's count for 25% of final marks.
- Additional Applied Science students do not do ISA's, but complete a portfolio of work during normal lessons. The portfolio is worth 60% of the final marks.

What support do we give?

- We provide exam specific revision guides for all students
- We communicate exam results and re-sit dates to parents by letter. This puts both parents and pupils in the picture and gives details of the marks necessary to improve the final GCSE grade
- We offer the chance to re-sit Yr 10 modules in Yr 11.
- We put on revision classes.
- We give written feedback in exercise books and go through past papers in class.

What support can you give?

- Encourage your sons/daughters to do their best with their homework. Ask if you can help.
- Ask your sons/daughters about their work. You could help with presentation, spelling and by checking it is complete.
- Talk to your sons/daughters about revision for exams. You can help them to
 - a) plan their exam revision
 - b) manage study time better
 - c) stay focused.

What can students do?

- Read through the revision guides and annotate where this helpful.
- Start revising early and plan time carefully.
- Break revision into short sessions.
- Use mind maps/bullet points to summarise the key facts for a topic.
- Learn the meaning of words; create a glossary.
- Revise with a friend and test each others understanding.
- Reward yourself when you have achieved a revision target.
- Ask for help if you are unsure.
- Use the school library/ internet facilities.
- Attend revision classes.
- Visit the SAM learning website or school website or AQA website (www.aqa.org.uk) This latter resource has lots of past papers and mark schemes. (Science)