All students embarked upon the study of their GCSEs in Science subjects at the start of Year 9. They have 4 periods in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics per fortnight. The courses are based upon the AQA Specifications, and final assessments will be by means of a series of terminal question papers which contain a variety of question styles. As part of the course, students will perform or observe a number of ‘required practicals’ (in addition to usual practical work); some examination questions will be related to these. There is no coursework component in any Science GCSEs.

Assessment schedule

Towards the end of their Year 9, students sat internal ‘Finals’ examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These were in addition to the shorter Assessment Tests which took place during that year, and in Year 10 up to the lockdown. The delayed Year 10 ‘Finals’ are scheduled for September, the proposed examination dates being:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Monday 7 September</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Friday 11 September</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Monday 14 September</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The dates are subject to change of course, according to the Covid-19 situation.

It is our intention to hold these examinations in Science laboratories during Science lessons. Students should consult the resources highlighted within the ‘Covid Recovery Plan’ Section of the School website to help them prepare for the examinations.

Further ‘mock’ examinations are expected to be held later in Year 11. After both sets of these examinations, we may adjust the routes being followed by some students.

Separate Science route

Those students who performed well in the assessments will follow a programme leading to the award of GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will sit two 1 hour 45 minute papers in each Science subject, each paper being worth 100 marks and consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open-response questions.

Currently, Sets 1-3 are parallel sets made up from the top performing students in the year group (based on the Year 9 ‘Finals’), and sets 4 and 5 are made up from the remaining students we feel, currently, are suited for entry into the separate Sciences.

Dates for the external examinations leading to the award of the separate Sciences are yet to be announced.

P.T.O.
**Combined Science route**

Some students’ performances in Year 9 indicated that it was in their interests for them to be prepared for entry into GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy instead of the separate Sciences. This is a double award qualification; it is worth two GCSEs. Students will sit two 1 hour 15 minute papers in each Science subject, each paper being worth 70 marks and consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open-response questions. These students make up set 6. It should be noted that this route also allows students to embark upon the study of A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

NB We are expecting to shift more students who have embarked upon the separate Sciences to examination entry in GCSE Combined Science after the Year 11 ‘mock’ examinations should we feel that this would be best for individual students.

Dates for the examinations leading the award of GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy are yet to be announced.

**Support materials**

Students have access to bespoke electronic textbooks for their Science courses on [www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com), together with other resources such as My GCSE Science. Students have had the opportunity to purchase ‘hard’ copies of these textbooks at a discounted rate through the school; they are also available in the shops – look for Oxford separate GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics books, or the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy books. Students can view and download the specification(s) and information about the courses from the website [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) Specimen and past examination papers are also available on the AQA website.

Mr P Jones
Head of Science | July 2020