KEVI HANDSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCIENCE FACULTY
KS4 course structure : September 2024 – June 2027

All students embarked upon the study of their GCSEs in Science subjects at KS3, particularly at the start of Year 9. They have had 4 periods in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics per fortnight, rising to 5 periods per fortnight in Years 10 and 11. Last year (in year 10) students continued the curriculum progression into full GCSEs. This year (in year 11) they will finish off their GCSE curriculum ready for the terminal examinations in May/June. The courses are based upon the **AQA Specifications**, and final assessments will be by means of a series of terminal question papers (at the end of year 11) 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

Students have already sat their end-of-Year 10 internal 'Finals' examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, in addition to having sat previously their Year 9 'Finals'. They will be sitting mock examinations in January of their Year 11.

Students' final examination entry in Science will depend upon their performances in these internal Science examinations: they will either be entered for **Separate Sciences** or **Combined Science: Trilogy**

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.

Combined Science route

Some students' performances may indicate that it will be 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. As there is less content to be covered, there will be more time to consolidate and revise material during lessons. It should be noted that this route also allows students to embark upon the study of A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

We will make the decision about entering students into **Combined Science** after they sit their 'mock' examinations (in January of Year 11). From approximately February onwards, they will spend lesson time consolidating and revising the core (Combined Science) content rather than learning new material required only for the Separate Science courses.

Support materials

Students have access to bespoke electronic textbooks for their Science courses on www.kerboodle.com, together with other resources such as Seneca, Cognito and Educake. Students have had the opportunity to purchase 'hard' copies of the 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. Specimen and past examination papers are also available on the AQA website.

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Head of Science | Sep 2026