

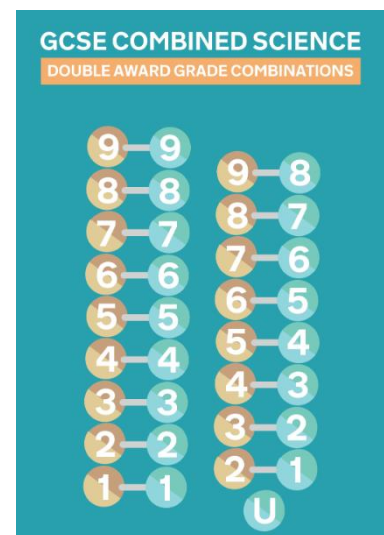
YEAR 11 BULLETIN

CARING - DETERMINED - REFLECTIVE

What will the science exams be like?

This week students had an assembly on what to expect in their science exams. For Edexcel Combined Science GCSE, grades are based on performance in six written exams, covering biology, chemistry, and physics. Each exam is 1 hour and 10 minutes long and tests students' knowledge, understanding, and ability to apply concepts. Practical skills are also assessed within these exams, using questions based on core [practicals](#). The marks from all six exams are combined, and the total is used to determine two overall grades, ranging from 9-9 to a U, reflecting performance across the entire subject.

For students taking Separate Sciences, there are six longer exams, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. These exams include additional questions covering the extra content specific to Separate Sciences. Students will receive an individual grade for each subject; Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.



How to prepare for GCSE science exams?

Science exam preparation has broadly two steps: learning key knowledge and applying it to past paper questions. Both strategies are covered in our period 1 program. Below are links to videos and resources for science revision.

Learning the key knowledge: Flashcards

Flashcards are an effective way to learn because they encourage active recall and processing. Unlike passive methods like reading or highlighting, flashcards engage the brain more effectively. Each card should focus on one concept or fact, avoiding overload. After using the cards, review any challenging ones and repeat regularly to reinforce memory. Spacing out flashcard sessions helps improve retention over time.

The following links are to short videos on how to make and use flashcards:

[What makes an effective flashcard](#)

[How to use flashcards](#)

Application of knowledge: Planned Practice

GCSE [past papers](#) and mark schemes are invaluable for revision. Many questions are repeated in similar forms, so practicing them increases the chance of seeing familiar ones in the exam. Marking your work also helps you understand how examiners expect answers, including specific phrases like “frequency of successful collisions” for explaining changes in rates of reaction. Practicing under timed conditions highlights gaps in knowledge, helping you learn from mistakes and improve.

Recommended revision resources:

1. Mr Field's [revision presentations](#) on YouTube
2. KayScience [short tutorials](#) on YouTube
3. BBC Bitesize: [Edexcel Combined Science](#)
4. BBC Bitesize: Edexcel [Separate Biology](#), [Separate Chemistry](#), [Separate Physics](#)

Applying to TMS Sixth Form

Sixth Form interviews are ongoing, and every student will have an interview with a member of the Sixth Form team. A reminder that all applications to TMS must be submitted through KentChoices, which is now open.

Performing Arts Deadlines

- BTEC Music Component 2: final deadline is Friday 6th December.
- BTEC Performing Arts Component 2: final deadline is Friday 6th December (this is for the Drama and Dance pathways).

Period 6

The current period 6 timetable is below. We've had a great turnout to our after-school intervention and encourage as many of you to come along. The sessions run from 3.30-4.30 pm.

Day	SUBJECT	Location
Monday	Maths (by invite only)	Maths corridor
Tuesday	Science (Higher & Foundation sessions)	R7 & R8
	Psychology	M5
	Computer Science	B3
Wednesday	English	R11
	History	B10
Thursday	Maths	Maths corridor

What to revise this week?

Each week the Bulletin will suggest some topics for revision to try and take the stress out of deciding what to revise.

Biology: 5. Health and disease: Non-communicable diseases

- [BBC bitesize: Non-communicable diseases](#)

Chemistry: 3. Core practical: making copper sulfate - [BBC bitesize: Making copper sulfate](#)

Physics: 6. Radioactivity - [BBC bitesize: Uses & Dangers of Radiation](#)

Geography: Weather and climate - Global atmospheric circulation, natural climate change and human activity - Revision guide p. 21-33.

History: Trench layout, key battles, terrain, transport and illness in the trenches of WWI - [resource](#)

Business Studies: Theme 1.5 Legislation: Unemployment, interest rates, Government taxation & exchange rates - CGP revision guide and Knowledge organiser questions as per homework

Psychology: Issues and Debates: The Development of Morality – [Development curriculum booklet p.38-44](#)

Sociology: Types of schools - Purple book p.52 and your curriculum book