

Applied Science AS/A2

Science is used in many areas of life, such as medicine, engineering and transport to name just a few. The number of careers that have scientific methods is increasing all of the time, as is the demand for people who have skills in these areas.

Applied Science is new course and is intended to follow on from the applied science GCSE that we introduced recently. The course focuses on studying how scientists and those in science-based careers work.

There are three compulsory units at AS...

Unit	Assessment method
Science at work	Portfolio
Analysis at work	Portfolio
Monitoring the activity of the human body	Examination

At A2, there are more units available, although only three units are required...

Unit	Assessment method	
Investigating the scientist's work	portfolio	Compulsory unit
Sampling, testing and processing	examination	One unit from these
Working waves		
Applications of biotechnology	portfolio	One unit from these
Ecology and managing the environment		
The mind and the brain		
Electrons in action		
Materials for a purpose		
Synthesising organic chemicals		

Each unit has equal weighting, so each AS unit is worth 33.3% of the AS qualification. For A2, each unit is worth 16.7% of the A-level qualification. The external examinations will take place in either January or June of year 12 and year 13.

The course involves both studying for examinations and preparing portfolios of work for assessment. To support this, a wide range of methods is used, but guided independent learning, discussion, research, ICT and practical work are central to our approach to student learning.

A qualification in A-level applied science is good preparation for further study for some science based courses, such as forensic sciences, medical-based careers and technical

professions. It is also good preparation for a wide range of other careers such as Research and Development and Business.

Applied science is designed for those students who have followed the Applied Science GCSE, although it can be followed by anyone who has achieved at least one grade 'C' GCSE in Sciences.