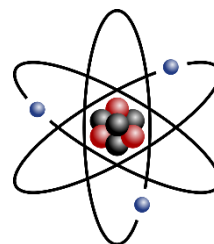


Physics



Examination board – AQA

The study of A Level Physics allows students to explore conceptual ideas about how the world works and facilitates the development of their analytical, problem-solving and experimental skills.

AQA A Level Content

Year 1

Much of what is studied in the Lower Sixth in Physics builds on what students have learned as part of their GCSE work, in particular, Electricity, Mechanics and Waves. New topics for students are Particles and Quantum Phenomena.

Year 2

In the Upper Sixth, we move on to more complex and more mathematical ideas in Physics, with topics including Circular Motion and Simple Harmonic Motion, Thermal Physics, Ideal Gases, Nuclear Physics and Fields (gravitational, electrical and magnetic).

Practical Work

Practical skills are developed and practiced throughout the two years of the A Level with a series of experiments that consolidate understanding of the theory. A separate endorsement of practical skills is undertaken, which is assessed by teachers based on observation of students' competency in a range of areas.

Assessment

Physics A Level in AQA is examined in 3 papers.

Paper 1 covers the Year 1 material as well as Periodic Motion. It is a 2 hour paper, which consists of 60 marks of long questions as well as 25 multiple choice questions.

Paper 2 covers Thermal Physics and Ideal Gases, Nuclear Physics and Fields and has the same structure as Paper 1: 60 marks of long questions and 25 multiple choice questions.

Paper 3 is in two sections. Section A covers practical skills and data analysis and Section B is on an optional topic.

GCSE Entry Requirements

Grade 7-9 in Physics. Grade 7 in Mathematics is desirable.

Mathematics Support

One lesson a week is given as extra support for students who are taking Physics but not Mathematics, to allow them to spend some time developing and practicing skills that other students will learn as part of their Mathematics course. The focus is on the parts of Mathematics that are most useful and relevant for the A Level Physics student.

