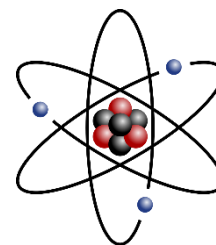


# Physics

Examination board: AQA



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

## Content

### Year 1

Much of what is studied in Year 12 in Physics builds on what pupils have learned as part of their GCSE work, in particular: Electricity, Mechanics and Waves. Particles and Quantum Phenomena are new topics.

### Year 2

In Year 13, we move on to more complex, conceptual and mathematical ideas in Physics; topics include 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 practised throughout the two years of the A Level via a series of experiments that consolidate understanding of the theory. A separate endorsement of practical skills is undertaken; this is assessed by teachers, based on observation of pupils' competency in a range of areas.

## Assessment

AQA A Level Physics is examined via three written 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 and 25 multiple-choice questions.

Paper 2 covers Thermal Physics and Ideal Gases, Nuclear Physics and Fields. It 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; Section B is on an optional topic.

## Subject combinations

The A Level Physics syllabus involves a high level of mathematical content, and pupils often find it advantageous to study Physics and Mathematics in combination. Physics pupils who are not also studying A Level Mathematics attend an additional weekly lesson of mathematics support which focuses on developing and practising the mathematical knowledge required for an A Level Physics student.

