

Subject: Applied Science	Awarding Body: AQA
Head of Dept: Mr Murray-Smith	Teachers: Determined based on student`s unit choices.

Preferred entry requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Combined Science. GCSE qualifications in English language, Mathematics and Computer Science are useful.

Specification Content

Year 1		Year 2	
1	Key concepts in science (written examination)	1	The human body (written examination)
2	Applied experimental technique (portfolio)	2	Investigating science (portfolio)
3	Science in the modern world (written examination)	3	Options: microbiology, medical physics or organic chemistry (portfolio)

Structure of the course:

The Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science consists of six units, of which five are compulsory and is the equivalent of an A Level. In year 1 of the course students will cover scientific principles associated with the application of biology, chemistry and physics, research into the roles and skills of scientists, and the public and media perception of science. Year 2 builds on their knowledge and develops scientific practical skills recognised by higher education institutions and employers to be the most important. The optional module allows pupils the opportunity to explore a wider range of applied learning following a particular pathway either biological, chemical or physical.

Method:

Teaching is structured to allow students to further develop ideas met at GCSE. Students are expected to work independently by tackling questions and carrying out practical tasks. The nature of the course places emphasis on transferable skills so they will need to develop their problem solving and communication of their research. Few of the numerical skills for this certificate require any methodology beyond GCSE Mathematics. Assessment is a mixture of internally and externally-assessed units. Externally-assessed units are by written examination. Internally-assessed portfolios are externally moderated by AQA. Units are graded as pass, merit or distinction (P,M,D or D*) with a D* attracting the same number of UCAS points as an A* at A Level. Pupils must pass each unit in order to pass the qualification.

Strengths/Skills developed through studying this subject:

The qualification offers students an opportunity to develop transferrable skills, research and communication as part of their applied learning. The ability to communicate in a clear, accurate, logical and coherent manner and to use appropriate vocabulary will also be developed. Numeracy skills will be further developed in a contextual manner. The applied purpose demands authentic work-related learning in each of the units. The applied aspect will also enable students to learn in such a way that they develop skills required for independent learning and development such as the ability to solve problems, the skills of project-based research, development and presentation, the ability to apply mathematical and ICT skills and the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

What students do with this qualification:

Employers recognise scientists as people of intelligence and ability. Applied Science can lead to further study in a vast spectrum of interesting fields: environment, space, transport, computing, medicine, economics and finance. The course has been developed with a wide range of higher education institutions to ensure that the best possible progression opportunities are available to courses at BSc degree level. As this qualification contains both examined and assignment-based assessment, the students are well prepared to adjust to higher-educational study.