



Supporting your child through their Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs

The Science Exams

Paper	Title	Length	%	Exam date
B1	Biology 1	1 hour 45 minutes	50	13 th May
B2	Biology 2	1 hour 45 minutes	50	9 th June
C1	Chemistry 1	1 hour 45 minutes	50	19 th May
C2	Chemistry 2	1 hour 45 minutes	50	13 th June
P1	Physics 1	1 hour 45 minutes	50	22 nd May
P2	Physics 2	1 hour 45 minutes	50	16 th June

Exam Structure

- Students take biology, chemistry and physics as completely separate GCSE subjects. For each subject there are two papers.
- Most candidates are entered at Higher tier, but there is an option to enter them for Foundation tier if they are struggling with that particular subject.
- The Foundation papers are easier but allow a maximum grade 5 to be achieved. Top grades of 9 are achievable for students sitting the harder, Higher tier papers but students failing to achieve a grade 4 or above are awarded no grade at all.
- Each paper has 100 marks available and candidates are required to answer all the questions.
- The questions get progressively more difficult as you go through the paper.
- It is important that candidates take particular care to avoid careless mistakes in the first half of the paper.
- Candidates should expect to be challenged and need to think hard about the questions in the second half.

Contacting the department

As a department we can be contacted via email at cmatthews@priory.herts.sch.uk

Supporting with Revision

- Encourage your child to start revision early
- Encourage your child to be organised and use a revision timetable and also space out the different topics they study
- Ask your child if you can help them: checking their knowledge, chatting to them over dinner, use flashcards to quiz them etc
- Encourage your child to attend revision sessions and complete their homework
- Ensure your child has breaks, eats well and gets a work/life balance
- Encourage your child to practise past exam questions (available from the AQA web-site or from www.physicsandmathstutor.com) and improve their answers by looking at the model answers in the mark scheme.

Revision Sessions

Revision sessions are already happening. Encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities.

Science Equipment

It is essential that students have the correct equipment for their examinations. For GCSE Science they will require the following:

Black pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, protractor and calculator.

We advise the Casio FX 991-CW Scientific Calculator which can be purchased from various stores and online.

Useful web-sites

www.aqa.org.uk (exam board web-site for specifications and past papers)

www.physicsandmathstutor.com (for past papers)

www.kerboodle.com (for revision resources and online text books)

<https://cognitoedu.org/home> (videos & questions)

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Freesciencelessons> (for revision videos)

<https://www.savemyexams.com/> (free resources)