



# Supporting your child through their Combined Science GCSE

## The Science Exams

Paper	Title	Length	%	Exam date
B1	Biology 1	1 hour 15 minutes	17	12 <sup>th</sup> May
C1	Chemistry 1	1 hour 15 minutes	17	18 <sup>th</sup> May
P1	Physics 1	1 hour 15 minutes	17	18 <sup>th</sup> May
B2	Biology 2	1 hour 15 minutes	17	8 <sup>th</sup> June
C2	Chemistry 2	1 hour 15 minutes	17	1 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
P2	Physics 2	1 hour 15 minutes	17	15 <sup>th</sup> June

## Exam Structure

- There are six papers in total (see above) and candidates are awarded two GCSE grades, based on a combination of their marks on all of these papers.
- Candidates are entered at either Foundation tier or Higher tier, and there are different papers for each tier.
- The Foundation papers are easier but allow a maximum grade 55 to be achieved. Top grades of 99 are achievable for students sitting the harder, Higher tier papers but students failing to achieve a grade 43 or above are awarded no grade at all.
- Each paper has 70 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](mailto: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](http://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-85GTX Scientific Calculator which can be purchased from various stores and online.

## Useful web-sites

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification> (exam board web-site for specifications and past papers)

<https://www.pmt.education/courses/gcse/combined-science/> (for past papers)

[www.kerboodle.com](http://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)