

CHEMISTRY (OCR)

Level: AS (H034), A2 – (H434)

Examination Board: OCR

These qualifications have been developed for candidates who wish to continue with a study of Chemistry after Level 2 study (for example GCSE). The course builds on the knowledge gained in the Level 2 courses, adding depth and breadth. It also offers the opportunity for candidates to devise and plan experimental or investigative activities and interpret, explain, evaluate and communicate the results of these.

Candidates take two compulsory units of assessment for the Advanced Subsidiary qualification, including aspects of atomic structure, chemical bonding, the periodic table and organic chemistry. A further two units are studied for A2 if candidates are seeking an Advanced GCE award. Advanced Subsidiary and A2 combined constitute the full Advanced GCE qualification.

Experimental Skills are formally assessed throughout the course and candidate results are submitted to OCR for moderation at the end of each year. The specification also provides opportunities for the development of the Key Skills which consider spiritual, moral, ethical, social, legislative and economic issues. The course promotes an awareness of the issues of sustainable development, health and safety considerations and the avoidance of bias.

Some candidates may wish to follow a Chemistry course for only one year as an Advanced Subsidiary GCE, in order to broaden their curriculum. Others continue for a further year extending their course to Advanced GCE. The specification is a good course to study alongside Biology, Physics, or Mathematics.

The Chemistry course prepares candidates to progress into further or higher education, to follow courses in Chemistry, Medicine, Biochemistry, one of the other sciences or related subjects, or to enter employment where knowledge of Chemistry would be useful. Study of AS or Advanced GCE Chemistry should also be seen as making a contribution towards life-long learning.