THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Chemistry is an important science as it relates well to all the other Sciences and to Mathematics. An understanding of Chemistry is helpful in understanding biological systems at the molecular level and is therefore desirable for subjects such as Medicine. It is also relevant to many social science subjects such as Geography and Sociology. Chemistry is much sought after by top British universities. Students taking a Science course or Science-related subjects should seriously consider Chemistry as one of their options.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

An interest in, and a desire to study, Chemistry is essential. Students who are willing to spend time studying on their own will do very well and will enjoy the course. We aim to instil a deep interest in the subject, which can be maintained in courses of further education and beyond.
GCSE or equivalent
IELTS 5.5 or equivalent

EXAM BOARD

OCR

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
MODULE 2 – Foundations in chemistry **MODULE 3** – Periodic table and energy **MODULE 4** – Core organic chemistry	**MODULE 5** – Physical chemistry and transition elements **MODULE 6** – Organic chemistry and analysis

ASSESSMENT

During the course, topic assessments take place once every half term and homework is set on a weekly basis. An End of Year 1 exam must be passed at a Grade C or higher for entry to the second year of the course.

Your A level grade is determined by your performance in three written papers at the end of the course, which include questions relating to both theory and practical skills. The first two papers each cover roughly half of the course content and account for 74% of the final mark in total. Paper 3 includes synoptic questions which might relate to any part of the specification, and contains only short-answer and extended response questions. It accounts for 26% of the final mark.

Practical skills are assessed by your teacher throughout the A Level course, with a record kept of the skills you have demonstrated. If you demonstrate all the required skills, a Practical Endorsement will be awarded as part of the A Level qualification at the end of the course. This does not contribute to your final grade, but it is needed for many Science-related university courses and careers.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Periodic Table, Elements, and Physical Chemistry (01)	100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper	37% of A level
Synthesis and Analytical Techniques (02)	100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper	37% of A level
Unified Chemistry (03)	70 marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper	26% of A level
Practical Endorsement in Chemistry (04)	(non-exam assessment)	Reported separately

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author

PART OF CATS GLOBAL SCHOOLS

OCR AS/A level Chemistry A Student Book 1 and ActiveBook	9781447990789	Victoria Stutt, Dave Scott, Sam Holyman,
OCR AS/A level Chemistry A Student Book 2 and ActiveBook	9781447990819	Victoria Stutt, Dave Scott, Sam Holyman,
A-Level Chemistry for OCR A Year 1 & AS Student Book with Online Edition (CGP A-Level Chemistry)	978-1789086683	CGP Books
A-Level Chemistry for OCR A Year 2 Student Book with Online Edition (CGP A-Level Chemistry)	978-1782943273	CGP Books

Summaries of each unit, your notes and past examination papers will be your major source of revision. There are revision guides for both AS and A2. Kerboodle is a useful online resource. Revision guides and workbooks will be offered by your teacher at a discounted price.

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Chemistry is a pivotal Science relating well to both Biology and Physics. It is required for many university courses including those in Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry, as well as being an advantage when applying for other Science courses such as Engineering. It opens the door to a large range of career options, as it is important for industry, commerce, manufacturing, pharmacology, and the medical professions as well as many other occupations.
Previous students have studied:
Imperial College London – Chemical Engineering
University of Manchester – Chemistry

University of Surrey – Biochemistry

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

Biology, Psychology, Maths, Physics.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Emma Lock


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