

Physics

A - Level AQA

General Course Information

What flies furthest: a chilli, tomato or an apple? How did the Universe begin? Does lightning travel up or down? In A-level physics we ask questions of what we find around us. The discovery of why, what and how things work, as well looking at the biggest questions in the universe. The lessons are about exploration and are student-led where possible, creating independent learners who question the world around them.

How is the course assessed?

We follow the AQA Physics syllabus A: details can be found on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk.

The content is as follows:

At AS:-

1. Measurement and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity

At A2:-

6. Further mechanics and thermal physics.
7. Fields
8. Nuclear physics
9. Astrophysics

At AS there are two examinations covering all the content. Practical assessment will be covered by maintaining a logbook of required experimental tasks. A complete logbook is a requirement of passing the practical skills assessment. The theory of practical skills and data analysis is examined within the examinations.

At A2 there are 3 examinations which will cover the content of the whole AS and A2 course. In order to progress to the A2 course it is expected that that you pass AS level with a grade D. Note that the AS marks will not count towards your final exam but provide a stand alone qualification and guide for universities.

Who's it for?

What do I need to start a Physics AS level course?

- Enthusiasm!
- At least 6 GCSE's grade 5 or higher, including English Language and Maths at a Grade 6.
- Double - Grade 6-6 or higher in Trilogy Science GCSE (Double)
- or Triple - 6 in Physics GCSE and 6-5 in the other two sciences
- At least a 6 at GCSE Maths and choosing Maths at A level as well is recommended.
- Other qualifications (including Applied Science Double Award GCSE) at an equivalent level may occasionally be considered; please discuss with us.

There is overlap between Physics and the other sciences, especially Chemistry. There are also obvious links with Mathematics, and Mathematics A-level is strongly advised. However none of these are necessary for a study of Physics and we will be also happy if students take Physics out of pure interest.

Progression

Physics AS and A-level are one of the most well-respected qualifications available to you, and as such will help you in almost all career choices.

Physics is usually required for University courses in; Any engineering discipline, Electronics, Ophthalmic, Telecommunication's and Medical physics.

Physics is of great value when applying for many other courses, including; ICT based subjects, Medicine and related subjects, Architecture, Industry design and any other subject with scientific or technical elements. Law and other subjects which demand high thinking and problem solving skills.

