



# Double Award Combined Science Trilogy

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Exams Overview and  
Revision Advice



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## How many GCSEs is the course worth?

Two GCSE grades will be awarded.

Time and effort spent on revision and preparation should reflect this.



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Marks from 6 papers are aggregated and grades awarded based on the total. Each of the grades 9-1 is split into two halves.

Grades
7 7
7 6
6 6
6 5
5 5
5 4
4 4
4 3



# Science – The Exams



## Six Papers:

- Paper 1 & 2 Biology
- Paper 1 & 2 Chemistry
- Paper 1 & 2 Physics

All papers are 1 hour & 15 minutes each

*There is no coursework element for GCSEs in Science.*



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## Required practical tasks:

There will be questions on these on all exams – not all of them, but we don't know which ones!

Pupils need to be aware of the methods, results and how they relate to the topics that they were taught with.



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## The tricky questions – worth 6 marks!

Animals and plants have features (adaptations) that allow them to survive in the conditions in which they normally live.

Describe how animals and plants are adapted to survive in dry conditions such as deserts.

For each adaptation that you give, describe how the adaptation helps the animal or plant to survive in dry conditions.

To obtain full marks you should refer to **both** animals and plants.



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## How to approach answering them:

- The first thing the student should do is to read the whole question.
- Re read the question and highlight all the key information and command words



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## The tricky questions – worth 6 marks!

Animals and plants have features (**adaptations**) that allow them to **survive in the conditions** in which they normally live.

**Describe** how **animals and plants** are **adapted** to survive in **dry conditions** such as **deserts**.

For **each** adaptation that you give, **describe how** the adaptation helps the animal or plant to survive in dry conditions.

To obtain full marks you should refer to **both** animals and plants.



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## How easy is it to pick up marks?

**For 1-2 marks** they would simply say camels have long eyelashes or cactus have spikes.

**For 3-4 marks** students have to say camels have long eyelashes so that they can prevent sand getting in their eyes OR Cacti have spikes to prevent them being eaten by predators.

**For 5-6 marks** students have to say camels have long eyelashes so that they can prevent sand getting in their eyes AND cacti have spikes to prevent them being eaten by predators. It has to be a PLANT AND AN ANIMAL, it cannot be two adaptations for plants



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Potential topics for 6 mark questions have been identified through the courses

Some examples:

In Chemistry, pupils might be asked to describe and explain how a chemical process works, or how the atmosphere has changed over time.

In Physics, the topics may be comparing electricity generating methods.



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## Command words

These are listed in the front of pupils' journals.

Pupils need to be aware of what each one is asking for them to do.



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## Key terms

There are always questions that require pupils to supply a key term to a definition or reaction type, others expect to see key terms used correctly.

Eg What type of reaction is shown below?

Copper + oxygen  $\rightarrow$  copper oxide

Pupils should know oxidation is a reaction in which oxygen is gained. Therefore the correct answer is...

**oxidation**

Learning the key terms so that they can be used correctly is something that every pupil can do



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- Exercise books with notes and checklists for revision purposes.
- A revision / practice book for each GCSE is available to purchase from the parent pay shop.
- This includes access to an e-book that can be accessed by pupils at home / downloaded onto a mobile device.



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## More help:

Formal revision sessions are being planned one evening a week which ideally all pupils should be attending.

Science teachers are also available via google classroom to answer any queries that pupils may have or if extra help is needed.



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## Other sources:

Complete revision resources e.g. Mind maps, flash cards, etc. using the checklists they have been given throughout the course for guidance.

Revision resources, including practice questions and answers are to be found on via google classroom, these can be accessed from home as well as in school.

Educake. Pupils have all been given a log-on to use this on-line resource



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## Resources on the web:

Concentrate on completion of any quizzes, using the available notes and explanations to help you with any uncertainties that may be encountered.

The important thing to recognise is that it isn't a particular question that pupils should be able to answer, but similar questions around the same topic.



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## Resources on the web:

- BBC Bitesize – make sure looking at AQA Science resources
- Youtube channel “MyGCSE Science” – no need to purchase resources from the associated website
- GetRevising - free registration needed
- DocBrown – many resources, ensure relevant to AQA courses
- Primrose kitten – a youtube resource
- S-Cool - many resources, ensure relevant to AQA courses
- Royal Society of Chemistry & other professional societies



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## Any questions?

If you would like any advice or have any questions you would prefer to ask directly please contact Miss Crosby or your child's Science teacher via the school office.