

A Level Physics

Examination board & syllabus: AQA Physics (A)

Minimum Entry Requirements: GCSE Additional Science Grade 5/6 or Physics Grade 5/6, and Maths Grade 5/6

NOTE: It is NOT essential to take A Level Maths with A level Physics.

A Level qualification

Content:

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear physics
9. Astrophysics

Assessments

There are 3 exams at the end of year 13.

Paper 1 (34% of final grade) assesses Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion) and consists of a written exam of 2 hours duration divided into short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions.

Paper 2 (34% of final grade) assesses Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8, and assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1. Like paper 1 it consists of a written exam of 2 hours duration divided into short, long and multiple choice questions.

Paper 3 (32% of final grade) assesses "practical skills and data analysis" (45 marks) and the optional topic (35 marks) and consists of a written exam of 2 hours duration containing long and short answer questions.

A Level Practical Endorsement:

Students will also have to demonstrate a series of practical skills through 12 required practicals and will gain a pass or fail. This will not count towards their overall grade but there may be entry requirements in further education for a pass in the practical endorsement.

Independent Study Tips:

Reviewing your learning after the lesson - and every week - will ensure you know where you are up to. If you miss a lesson, you must approach your teacher in order to catch up. Every lesson contains building blocks for future learning; it is essential to keep up with your studies. We recommend 5 hours per week independent work.

Higher Education Progression: A Level Physics is essential for physics, physical chemistry, geophysics and engineering degrees and is useful for maths, medicine, law, accountancy, chemistry.

Career Opportunities: The analytical and logical skills that a Physics A level demonstrate are valued in so many professions outside physics or engineering – law, accountancy, meteorology, biochemistry, architecture, computer graphics/animation.

Useful Websites:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/a-level/science/physics-a.php>

<http://www.a-levels.co.uk/a-levelphysics.html>

http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/A-Level_Physics