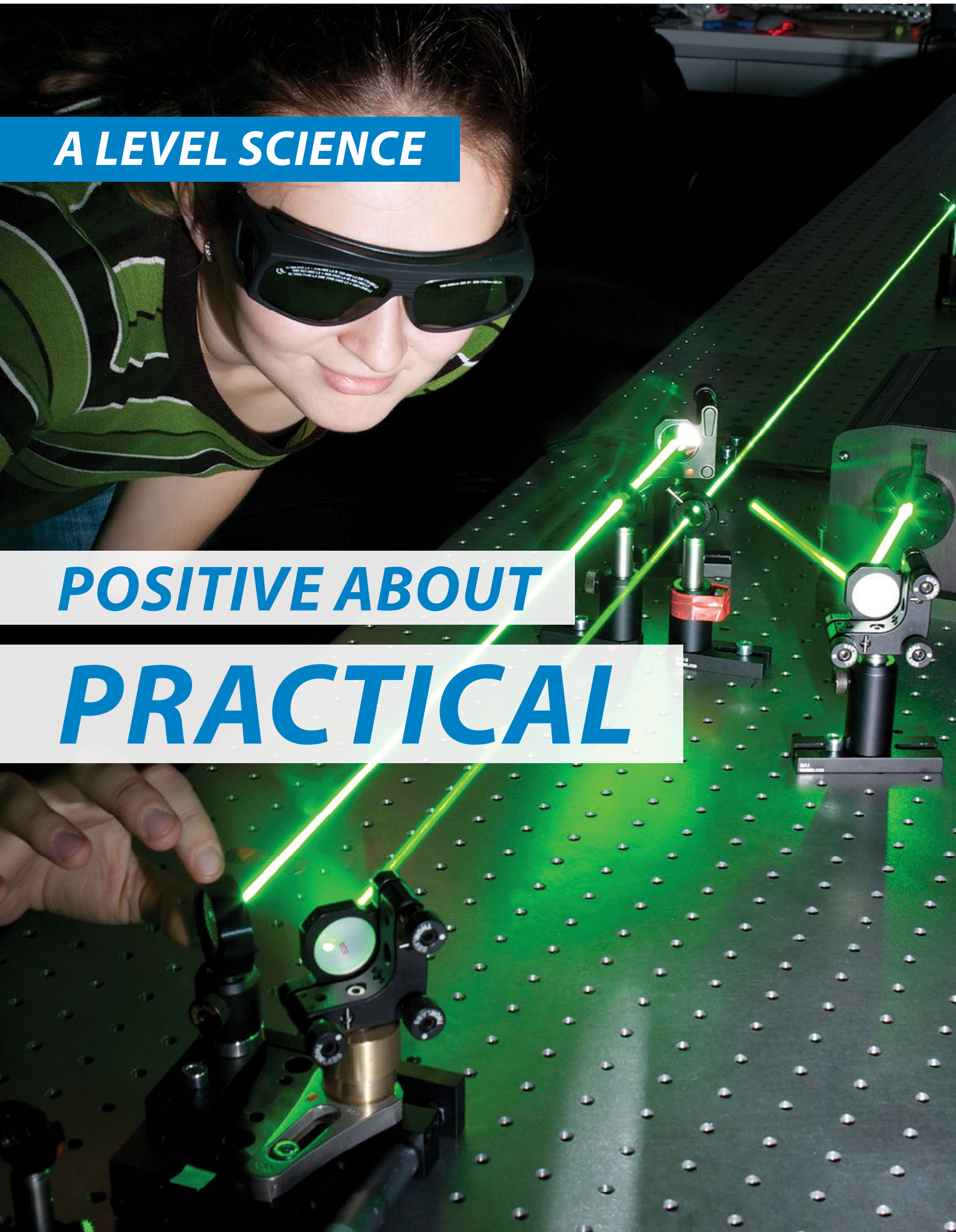
OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA



A LEVEL SCIENCE

POSITIVE ABOUT PRACTICAL

THE PHILOSOPHY

Teaching science uses practical demonstration and practical activities integrated into the teaching and learning.

With our courses, teachers are able to enjoy greater flexibility including:

- Planning lessons to suit their own situation – class, room, timetable, equipment, support.
- Selection of practical activities already routinely used in teaching and learning as the vehicle for practical assessment.
- The freedom to teach in different ways, using defined short practicals or longer, open ended investigations – or something in between.
- With support from OCR, teachers have the option to use their own practical activities

THE PRACTICALITY

All four sciences follow the same model, which is identical for our A and B suites, meaning that the style of practical isn't linked to the specification.

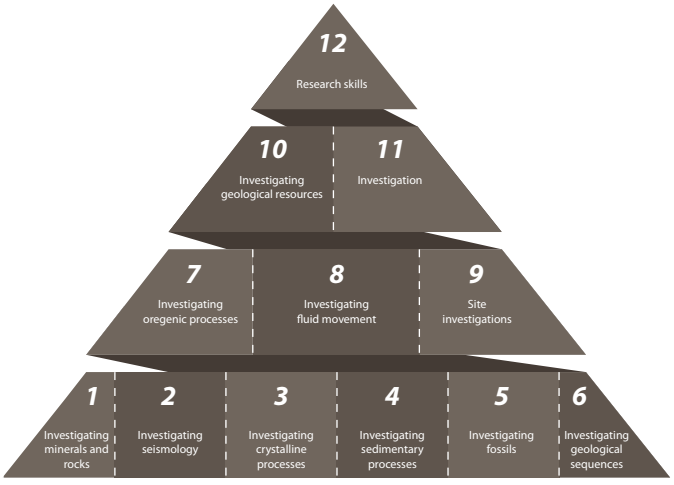
Twelve practical activity groups are defined and identified throughout the specification. OCR provide three practical activities within each group, including teacher/technician notes and student sheet.

Each suggested activity:

- is mapped against the specification criteria and the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC).
- gives health and safety guidance and links to appropriate CLEAPSS information.

To pass, a student must have demonstrated the appropriate skills and techniques for the subject and have met the assessment criteria, having completed a minimum of 12 practical activities.

The student must retain an appropriate record of their practical work.



GEOLOGY

PHYSICS

KEEPING TABS

The teacher must retain a record of practical work carried out and competences met. The PAG Tracker allows teachers to:

- input class lists
- sort by class
- record attendance at practical activities
- identify students failing to demonstrate the competencies required
- add their own practical activities
- select chosen practicals for the year and check coverage of requirements
- identify individual skills, apparatus or techniques required and find practical activities that cover these
- view whole cohort progress

PRACTICAL ACTIVITY SUPPORT SERVICE

Subject specialists can advise on carrying out activities for the endorsement, with a Practical Skills Handbook made available to all centres.

Centres can receive support in mapping their own or external practical activities to the requirements.

Plus there is a free email support service for teachers and technicians. To find out more, email us at **PASS@ocr.org.uk**

BIOLOGY

CHEMISTRY

THE CROSS BOARD TRIAL

The cross board trial showed that CPAC could work and that monitoring against the criteria is possible and can be positive. Students assessed their own progress.

The trial also showed:

- Monitoring was very different to moderation.
- The monitoring experience can drive up the standards of practical work in centres.
- The guidance needed on the investigative level required.

Practical work can complement the teaching of core concepts at appropriate times.

Students become self critical learners and gain confidence in practical work.

It allows experiments to be truly experimental, with room for learning from mistakes.

#POSITIVEABOUTPRACTICAL

The lab book will be useful for applying for university and useful for revision.

Teachers can integrate CPAC into current teaching.

The practical mark is visible for the first time.

Find out more
ocr.org.uk/positiveaboutpractical

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