

**PROVISIONAL**

# TRANSITION GUIDE

Theme: Magnets and  
Magnetic Fields

June 2015

GCSE (9–1) Gateway  
Combined Science A  
KS3–KS4



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# Welcome

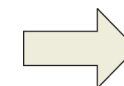
## Welcome to the KS3–KS4 transition guide for **GCSE (9–1) Gateway Combined Science A.**

Key Stage 3 to 4 Transition guides focus on how a particular topic is covered at the different key stages and provide information on:

- Differences in the demand and approach at the different levels;
- Useful ways to think about the content at Key Stage 3 which will help prepare students for progression to Key Stage 4;
- Common student misconceptions in this topic.
- Transition guides also contain links to a range of teaching activities that can be used to deliver the content at Key Stage 3 and 4 and are designed to be of use to teachers of both key stages. Central to the transition guide is a Checkpoint task which is specifically designed to help teachers determine whether students have developed deep conceptual understanding of the topic at Key Stage 3 and assess their 'readiness for progression' to Key Stage 4 content on this topic. This checkpoint task can be used as a summative assessment at the end of Key Stage 3 teaching of the topic or by Key Stage 4 teachers to establish their students' conceptual starting point.

Key Stage 3 to 4 Transition Guides are written by experts with experience of teaching at both key stages.

Go to topic comparison



## Key Stage 3 Content

### Key Stage 3 National Curriculum Content

- Magnetic poles, attraction and repulsion
- Magnetic fields by plotting with compass, representation by field lines
- Earth's magnetism, compass and navigation
- The magnetic effect of current, electromagnets, D.C. motors (principles only).



## Key Stage 4 Content

### GCSE Subject Criteria Content

- Learners should be able to describe:
  - the attraction and repulsion between unlike and like poles for permanent magnets
  - the difference between permanent and induced magnets
  - describe the characteristics of the magnetic field of a magnet, showing how strength and direction, change from one point to another
- Explain how the behaviour of a magnetic compass is related to evidence that the core of the Earth must be magnetic
- Describe how to show that a current can create a magnetic effect and the directions of the magnetic field around a conducting wire
- Recall that the field strength depends on the current and the distance from the conductor
- Explain how solenoid arrangements can enhance the magnetic effect
- Describe how a magnet and a current-carrying conductor exert a force on one another
- Understand and apply Fleming's left-hand rule
- Apply the equation  $F=BIL$
- Explain how DC electric motors work

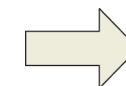
KS3



KS4

To return to this page at any point click on this button.

Explore the Guide



KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching Activities **(KS3 focus)**

Checkpoint Tasks

Possible Teaching Activities **(KS4 focus)**

Possible Extension Activities **(KS4 focus)**

Resources, links and support

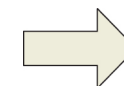
## Comment

A well delivered and well understood study of magnetism at KS3 should make it easier for learners to grasp the more complex ideas delivered at GCSE and beyond. Consequently, it is important to ensure both content and delivery effectively targets the common misconceptions which arise during KS3. The following list of misconceptions is not exhaustive, but it does contain much of what causes problems for learners:

- All metals will be attracted to magnets, and all magnets are made of iron
- A physically large magnet must be a stronger magnet than a smaller one
- Magnetic fields will freely move through all materials
- The geographic and magnetic North Poles are the same
- Magnetic field lines can touch or cross over each other and only exist outside a magnet
- Only magnets produce magnetic fields.

Imprecise use of language at KS3 can be a hindrance when making the step up to GCSE. It is essential to encourage the accurate and precise use of technical terminology across all abilities. This can be aided by the display of relevant vocabulary within the classroom, which learners are encouraged to consult whenever possible.

Next



KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching  
Activities **(KS3 focus)**

Checkpoint Tasks

Possible Teaching  
Activities **(KS4 focus)**

Possible Extension  
Activities **(KS4 focus)**

Resources, links and  
support

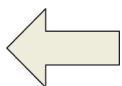
## Comment

The importance of language can be demonstrated when talking about magnetic fields it is helpful for learners to realise that when they place their compass in a magnetic field the North Pole of that compass will experience a force of attraction. To help avoid the previously mentioned misconception that charges are attracted to magnetic poles, talk in terms of the direction to which the North Pole of a compass would point when located in a magnetic field.

Use the word 'density' when explaining how the number and distance between magnetic field lines indicates field strength. This will help learners when the term 'magnetic flux' is introduced at GCSE and beyond. It is also vitally important that learners are encouraged to draw magnetic field lines with care, paying attention to the direction and density of the lines they draw. They need to understand that the density of magnetic field lines indicate the strength of different areas of a magnet.

When looking at attraction and repulsion of magnets learners can become familiar with the pattern of magnetic field diagrams, at the expense of the realisation that these two magnetic fields are affecting each other. Diagrams can aid descriptions and help to demonstrate how these magnetic fields are interacting with each other. This is something that will help at GCSE level when considering how the magnetic field around a current carrying wire interacts when placed between the poles of a permanent magnet. It will also be of benefit when discussing the principle of how a DC motor works.

Previous



KS3



KS4

Comment

**Possible Teaching Activities (KS3 focus)**

Checkpoint Tasks

Possible Teaching Activities (KS4 focus)

Possible Extension Activities (KS4 focus)

Resources, links and support

## Possible Teaching Activities (KS3 focus)



**Magnetic cereal**  
Sciencebob.com

Most cereals claim to supply all or most of our daily recommended supply of iron. Does that make cereal magnetic? In this video clip 'Science Bob' attempts to answer that question. This could be used as a video clip or if suitable neodymium magnets are available would make an interesting demonstration.

Click here to view page

**Resources:** [http://www.sciencebob.com/experiments/videos/video-iron\\_cereal.php](http://www.sciencebob.com/experiments/videos/video-iron_cereal.php)

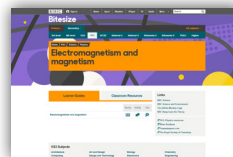


**Magnetic nails**  
You Tube

This video might be one way of gaining some interest in magnetic field patterns. Nail varnish is not usually encouraged in school, but in this instance it may be worth sourcing some for experimental purposes.

Click here to view page

**Resources:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqas6ym\\_BuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqas6ym_BuU)



**3D magnetic fields**  
BBC

This video clip demonstrates the often overlooked fact that magnetic fields are three-dimensional. It also usefully looks at how a current flowing through a coil of wire can produce an electromagnet. The magnetism section of the BBC Bitesize KS3 website contains additional and useful classroom resources as well as links to other material.

Click here to view page

**Resources:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zrvbkqt>



**Magnetic Earth**  
PhET

This interactive simulation allows the exploration of fields around, the Earth, bar magnets and electromagnets. There is an accompanying teacher's guide and other ideas supplied by users of the simulation.

Click here to view page

**Resources:** <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/magnets-and-electromagnets>

KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching Activities (**KS3 focus**)

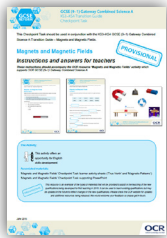
**Checkpoint Tasks**

Possible Teaching Activities (**KS4 focus**)

Possible Extension Activities (**KS4 focus**)

Resources, links and support

## Checkpoint Tasks



The checkpoint task is centred on the use of a PowerPoint containing six different activities. The task has been designed to consolidate KS3 learning and aid the move up to GCSE. The task can be utilised in a variety of different ways:

- Individually or pairs as a class
- All six activities can be laid out in the form of 'stations' which learners can visit in small groups. The PowerPoint can then be used to facilitate whole class discussion at the end of the session. The numbering of each checkpoint task allows differentiation via the allocation of prescribed routes around the activities.
- Divide the class into 9 or less teams. Using the PowerPoint allow learners to select a picture. Each slide can either be discussed in small groups or as a class. Similarly, individual 'station' slides can be printed out and put in envelopes and distributed between teams. Each team discussing and presenting their findings to the whole class. The advantage of the latter method is it allows differentiation through selective distribution of envelopes.
- All activities can alternatively be used for starters, plenaries or revision sessions at both KS3 and GCSE.



### Resources:

[www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221025-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-checkpoint-instructions.pdf](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221025-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-checkpoint-instructions.pdf)

[www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221026-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-checkpoint-activity.ppt](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221026-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-checkpoint-activity.ppt)

[www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221023-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-true-north-learner-activity.doc](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221023-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-true-north-learner-activity.doc)

[www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221024-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-patterns-learner-activity.doc](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221024-magnets-and-magnetic-fields-patterns-learner-activity.doc)



KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching Activities (KS3 focus)

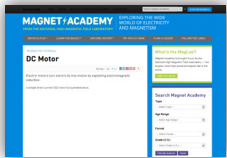
Checkpoint Tasks

**Possible Teaching Activities (KS4 focus)**

Possible Extension Activities (KS4 focus)

Resources, links and support

## Possible Teaching Activities (KS4 focus)

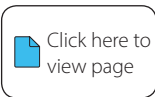


### DC Motors

Magnet Academy

This DC motors simulation shows clearly how the force on a current carrying conductor is used to cause rotation in an electric motor. The magnet academy web site contains a variety of useful material and some excellent simulations.

**Resources:** <https://nationalmaglab.org/education/magnet-academy/watch-play/interactive/dc-motor>

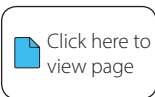


### Twist and bend

Cool Magnet Man

This web page has a series of animated gif files which show how the magnetic fields twist and bend as magnets are broken apart, moved about with respect to each other and steel plates. The web site in general is worth exploring with plenty of useful information and interesting experiments you can do with permanent magnets and electro-magnets.

**Resources:** <http://www.coolmagnetman.com/magmotion.htm>



### Interacting fields

S-cool

This web page contains an animation showing the interaction between a current carrying conductor and a permanent magnet. This GCSE revision web site has other clear diagrams and animations that are useful.

**Resources:** <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/physics/magnetism-and-electromagnetism/revise-it/electromagnetism>



### Measuring the Earth's magnetic field

YouTube

Magnetometry 101 is a short informative video showing how the Earth's magnetic field has been measured by magnetometers.

**Resources:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljfa1R9JXWk>



KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching Activities (KS3 focus)

Checkpoint Tasks

Possible Teaching Activities (KS4 focus)

**Possible Extension Activities (KS4 focus)**

Resources, links and support

## Possible Extension Activities (KS4 focus)



### Yogurt cup speakers

Teach Engineering

An understanding of electromagnetism plays a significant role in a number of engineering disciplines. This web site provides a number of useful potential lessons in this topic area. This particular lesson involves building speakers from yogurt pots, and should stretch and challenge learners in their understanding of the relationships between electricity and magnetism.

Click here to view page

**Resources:** [https://www.teachengineering.org/view\\_activity.php?url=collection/usc/\\_activities/usc\\_speakers/usc\\_speakers\\_activity1.xml](https://www.teachengineering.org/view_activity.php?url=collection/usc/_activities/usc_speakers/usc_speakers_activity1.xml)



### Force on a current-carrying wire

The Institute of physics

The Institute of physics TAP (Teaching Advanced Physics) program, although aimed at A Level is a useful resource for GCSE extension tasks. Episode 412: The force on a conductor in a magnetic field contains clearly laid out experiments and an easily edited worksheet of questions using the formula  $F=BIL$ .

Click here to view page

**Resources:** [http://tap.iop.org/fields/electromagnetism/412/page\\_46925.html](http://tap.iop.org/fields/electromagnetism/412/page_46925.html)



### Homopolar motor

Physics central/Evil Mad Scientist

This could be used as a video clip or would make a fascinating demonstration. Learners can be challenged to explain the physics that is causing this motor to operate. These two websites both contain instructions for slightly different motors, videos and explanation.

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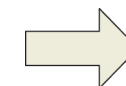
**Resources:** <http://www.physicscentral.com/experiment/physicsathome/homopolar-motor.cfm>



<http://www.evilmadscientist.com/2006/how-to-make-the-simplest-electric-motor/>

Click here to view page

Next



KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching  
Activities (**KS3 focus**)

Checkpoint Tasks

Possible Teaching  
Activities (**KS4 focus**)

**Possible Extension  
Activities (KS4 focus)**

Resources, links and  
support

## Possible Extension Activities (KS4 focus)



### Build your own magnetometer

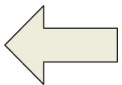
NASA

The activities on this website allow learners to develop their understanding of the importance of the Earth's magnetic fields for our own lives. This particular challenge is for learners to build their own magnetometer.

Click here to  
view page

**Resources:** <http://image.gsfc.nasa.gov/poetry/activities.html>

Previous



KS3



KS4

Comment

Possible Teaching Activities **(KS3 focus)**

Checkpoint Tasks

Possible Teaching Activities **(KS4 focus)**

Possible Extension Activities **(KS4 focus)**

**Resources, links and support**

## Resources, links and support



**Additional Topic 1**



**Additional Topic 2**



**Additional Topic 3**

As we develop Transition Guides for further topics we'll update these links, making it easy for you to browse all the guides for your chosen subject.



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