



AS Level Science

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

The OCR AS GCE Science specification extends GCSE science and contains elements of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as earth science and environmental science. The specification is purpose-built for those candidates who wish to continue with a broad study of science beyond GCSE, but who choose not to specialise in the separate science disciplines.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- All units draw, as appropriate, on the content identified in the QCA Subject Criteria for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- The content is chosen to provide a balanced and coherent study of science. To this end, content from earth science and environmental science is also included.
- The first unit at AS has been designed so that candidates can sit the exam for the first time in January of year 12.
- The revised specification has less emphasis on recall and more on understanding and application.
- The specification content has been updated to include modern advances in science.

AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	G641: Remote Sensing and the Natural Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensing the environment using electromagnetic radiation• Stable and vulnerable ecosystems	1 hour written exam AS Level – 30%
Mandatory	G642: Science and Human Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weather, climate and climate change• Chemical processes in the atmosphere• Proteins and genetic engineering• Options for energy generation	1 hour 45 mins written exam AS Level – 50%
Mandatory	G643: Practical Skills in Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case study• Practical task	Internal Assessment AS Level – 20%

How is this qualification assessed?

There are two written papers and internal assessment of practical skills through completion of an OCR set task and case study. The task is to be marked by teachers using a specific, OCR supplied mark scheme.

Examination series are available every January and June.

Assessment of coursework will be available in June series only.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First AS unit – January 2009.

Two remaining AS units – June 2009.

What support will I receive?

Training

Introductory INSET will be available to support all teachers of this new specification.

Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Heinemann is publishing materials for the 2008 Science AS Level specification.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Sample Assessment Material
- Schemes of Work
- Coursework Guidance

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre
on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk