

Key benefits

- **Accessible and consistent question papers**
 - Only one 6 mark level of response question per paper.
 - Accessible language and clear layout used in all papers, see our [Exploring our question papers booklet](#) for more information.
 - Our question papers are split into clear sections to include multiple choice questions.
- **Support for practicals**
 - We have a flexible approach to practicals. Instead of specifying required practicals, we specify the required skills. We have 40 exemplar activities for you to choose from, or you can use your own.
- **Entry Level Science**
 - We have an [Entry Level Science](#) qualification that maps to GCSE Combined Science, that can be used alongside, as an introduction to, or an alternative to the GCSE.



Content overview

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Separate Sciences – Biology J247, Chemistry J248, Physics J249 Two papers per science each covering half of the specification. Two sections in each paper: Section A – 15 Multiple Choice questions Section B – structured and extended response questions	J247 – 2 x 90 J248 – 2 x 90 J249 – 2 x 90	J247 – 2 x 1:45 hours J248 – 2 x 1:45 hours J249 – 2 x 1:45 hours	J247 – 2 x 50% J248 – 2 x 50% J249 – 2 x 50%
Combined Science – J250 Six papers, two per science, each covering half of the subject content. Two sections in each paper: Section A – 10 Multiple Choice questions Section B – structured and extended	6 x 60	6 x 1:10 hours	6 x 16.7%

Feedback from teachers on our exams:

June 2018 exams - The reality of the paper matched their expectations of the new GCSE. They had been well prepared and revised hard. (Combined Science, Chemistry)

June 2019 exams - Positive. The Physic[s] papers felt fair, with a good range of ability questions. (Physics)

Our support and resources

We understand that moving exam boards is a big step, and we are here to **support you.**

Planning and teaching resources freely available on the GCSE Science webpages:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-biology-a-j247-from-2016/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-chemistry-a-j248-from-2016/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-physics-a-j249-from-2016/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-combined-science-a-j250-from-2016/>

This includes:

- Delivery guides and teacher guides - teaching support/activities for course content
- Scheme of Work builder - where you can create and export your own scheme of work.
- Practical activities - over 40 exemplar activities for you to use with your students, including a specific Combined Science booklet with 21 practical activities covering Combined Science practical skills requirements, and a supplementary booklet for separate sciences detailing the extra activities required to cover separate science requirements. Both these booklets are completely editable and include a technician guide and homework booklet.

Assessment resources freely available on the GCSE Science webpages, including:

- Past papers, mark schemes, examiner report, candidate exemplars and examiner comment summary sheet.
- ExamBuilder - build your own question papers for free using our online platform

ocr.org.uk/exambuilder

www.ocr.org.uk

OCR Customer Support Centre

General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Vocational qualifications

Telephone 02476 851509

Facsimile 02476 851633

Email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

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Active Results - Analyse your students' exam results through our online service. ocr.org.uk/activeresults

Endorsed Textbooks

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-combined-science-a-j250-from-2016/textbooks/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-biology-a-j247-from-2016/textbooks/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-chemistry-a-j248-from-2016/textbooks/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/gateway-science-suite-physics-a-j249-from-2016/textbooks/>

For all your specific subject-related queries, you can get in touch with our friendly, knowledgeable OCR Science Subject Advisor team via Science@ocr.org.uk and follow them on Twitter [@OCR_Science](https://twitter.com/OCR_Science)

CPD and teacher networks

Sign up for one of our popular CPD courses at this link: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/professional-development/upcoming-courses/>

Sign up for our free teacher networks at this link, where you can discuss your subject with an OCR Subject Advisor and like-minded colleagues in your local area: <https://teach.ocr.org.uk/teacher-network-events>

Next steps

If you're an OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.

Make sure you sign up to Interchange and ExamBuilder and to our subject email mailing list, so that we can share new resources and important updates with you. <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/email-updates/>