

A Level Biology A (H420), A Level Biology B (H422)  
A Level Chemistry A (H432), A Level Chemistry B (H433)  
A Level Physics A (H556), A Level Physics B (H557)

# Your guide to the changes for 2021

---

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please [use the specification on our website](#), alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

## Overview of changes for A Level Sciences

Ofqual has confirmed students taking A Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics in summer 2021 should still aim to complete a minimum of 12 practical activities covering the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC).

- All assessments remain the same.
- 15% of the marks on the assessment will still test practical skills as outlined in Module 1.1 of the specification, including apparatus and techniques covered through the course of the Practical Endorsement.
- Exam boards can carry out remote Practical Endorsement monitoring visits.

## A Level Sciences for academic year 2020/21

Students should still aim to complete a minimum of 12 practical activities covering the CPAC requirements, the 1.2.1 section of our specifications, and all apparatus and techniques (covered by the 1.2.2 section of our specifications).

We understand that imposed limitations to protect public health, such as localised school closures, may make meeting the usual Practical Endorsement requirements difficult for some centres. In such cases, students may still be awarded a Pass in the Practical Endorsement if they have demonstrated competence in all of the 1.2.1 criteria and the CPAC, even if they haven't completed the usual minimum requirement of 12 practicals.

In all circumstances, it is important that students are still taught about any apparatus and techniques they are unable to cover, as they will still be expected to answer questions about these in the examinations.

A 2021 version of the NEA Centre Declaration Form will still need to be signed as you will still be expected to confirm that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that students have had the opportunity to carry out practical activities.

## Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

✉ [science@ocr.org.uk](mailto:science@ocr.org.uk)

🐦 [@OCR\\_Science](#)

☎ 01223 553 998

Don't forget to [sign up for email updates](#) for the latest news, CPD events and teaching and assessment resources.