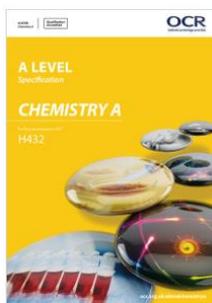




A Level Chemistry

frequently asked questions

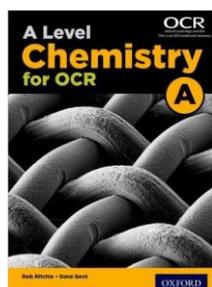


Q. Which specification do we follow?

A. OCR Chemistry A (H432)

The A Level Chemistry A qualification is a content-led course designed to develop theoretical and practical chemistry skills, knowledge and understanding.

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/>



Q. What text-book do you recommend?

A. A Level Chemistry for OCR A by Rob Ritchie and Dave Gent (Oxford University Press)

You will get access to an online version when you start the course, via www.kerboodle.com
This book covers both year 12 and 13. It is good for additional reading to supplement the resources that we provide you with.

Q. How will I be assessed?

A. 3 exams at the end of year 13 ... there is no coursework.

You will get further information about which topics are examined in which paper, during induction in September. You'll need to develop excellent revision skills, as the exam papers will include questions on topics that you learnt about at the start of year 12.

Q. What standard of chemistry should I be at, to cope with joining the course?

A. Minimum grade 6, GCSE combined science standard.

You should have a keen interest in chemistry and strong mathematical skills. Separate chemistry is not essential and it doesn't matter which exam board you were with (e.g. AQA, OCR or Edexcel).

Q. How will I know if the course is right for me?

A. Early engagement and assessment.

We will start with a topic that builds on prior knowledge and will advance to A Level standard fairly quickly. This will allow you to get a feel for the demands of the course early on, and an indication of the high expectations that we have in the department. We also plan to give you an induction exam in the second week of college, which will be good evidence for you and us about your suitability for the course. If the course turns out not to be for you, there are alternatives, subject to availability. For example, BTEC Applied Science is equivalent to an A Level and it is accepted by many universities. The Applied Science course has chemistry running through it, and is 50% exam and 50% coursework.



Q. What other A Levels should I take, alongside A Level Chemistry?

A. You should take at least one other science and/or maths.

We strongly recommend that you take A Level Maths, alongside Chemistry, due to the mathematical nature of some of the topics, particularly in year 13. The entry requirements for a Chemistry degree at the majority of Russell Group universities include Maths at A Level. Chemistry also fits well with Biology or Physics. A common, suitable programme of study (POS) would be Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. Getting your POS right is crucial.

Q. What resources will I be provided with?

A. A complete set of booklets, with accompanying videos, PowerPoints, assessments and revision ideas.

You will have access to the A Level Chemistry course page, which is packed full of resources to help you to learn and revise. You'll also get a login to kerboodle.com which has many resources and multi choice quizzes, including access to the recommended text-book.

Q. What do I need to bring to my first Chemistry lesson?

A. A pen, pencil, ruler, file paper, A4 sized file, scientific calculator and determination.

We will provide you with the booklets to work in, but you may want to have some spare paper with you too. You will need to stay organised during the course. Most students have a small A4 file to use in college as a 'day file' but then, at the end of every topic, they transfer their completed work to a bigger file at home (e.g. Lever Arch type). We have file checks every half term, to help you to maintain the high standards of organisation necessary.

Q. Will I get assessed during the course?

A. We will have at least one homework assignment for every topic and regular topic or module tests. At the end of year 12, you will sit a college exam on everything you have learnt in your first year. This will give a good indication for your final/predicted grade.

Even though the A Level Chemistry course is a linear course, with 3 exams at the end of year 13, it will be important to revise for all tests and college exams seriously, as your tutor will keep a record of achievement for you throughout the course. This will be used as evidence towards predicted grades for university and apprenticeship applications.

Q. Will I get to do much practical work?

A. We will do a minimum of 12 'assessed practical activity groups throughout the course. We'll explain more about that during induction.

Q. Are there many enrichment opportunities in Chemistry?

A. Absolutely! Have a look at the next page, which is all about our super curriculum offer.

If you have any questions that haven't been covered here, please contact the college admissions team, who will either be able to help, or will signpost you to help. Thank you.

chemistry @ carmel college

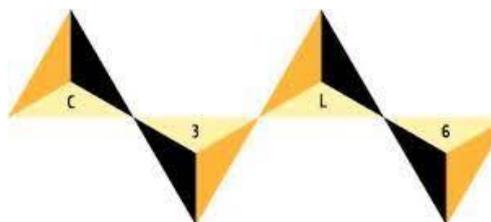


High Achievers Programme



The Chemistry Department offer a wide range of **super curriculum** activities, to stretch and challenge its high achieving students, including:

- A* Masterclasses
- RSC Young Analyst Competition
- RSC Chemistry Olympiad
- Cambridge Chemistry Challenge
- Extra Stretch and Challenge resources on Connect



We encourage all students, but especially our high achievers, to join our **enrichment society ChemSoc**, where students can further develop their problem solving and practical skills, prepare for university (including **Oxbridge**) and/or higher level apprenticeship applications, as well as going on educational trips, such as 'Chemistry in Action' Study Day and STEM Masterclasses at University Labs.

Many of our students go on to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary studies.

We also have a number of former students currently studying at Oxford and Cambridge.