

Physics

Course Type: A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Course Entry Requirements: Standard plus grade 6 in GCSE Physics and in maths or grade 6 in GCSE combined science with grade 6 in Maths.

Why Study Physics?

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us.

It encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles.

As a subject challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers. These then lead to technologies which change our lives—from healing joints, curing cancer and developing sustainable energy solutions.

Physics is the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, seismology, astronomy, biology and the medical sciences. Inventive, logical and analytical thinking makes physicists desirable in any professional field.

What Will I Study? Course Content

Physics is taught as a full A level. The course units are as follows:

Year 1 topics

Unit 1 - Measurements and Errors.

Unit 2 - Particles and Radiation.

Unit 3 - Waves

Unit 4 - Mechanics and Materials.

Unit 5 - Electricity.

Year 2 topics

Unit 6 - Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics.

Unit 7 - Fields and their Consequences

Unit 8 - Nuclear Physics.

+ One option topic

How will I be assessed?

A-Level Physics:

Paper 1 Two hours - 85 marks (34%) Short/long questions = 60 marks; Multiple-choice 25 Marks

Paper 2 Two hours - 85 marks (34%) Short/long questions = 60 marks; Multiple-choice 25 Marks

Paper 3 Two hours - 80 marks (32%) Section A: Practical Skills/Data = 45 marks. Section B: Option Topic - 35 Marks

Students will complete 12 key practical activities.

The exam board will set questions on these investigations.