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What will I do?

At Bodmin College, we currently deliver the OCR Chemistry A curriculum. This is assessed through two exams at the end of Year 12, which form the AS qualification, or three in Year 13, forming the A Level qualification. The assumption is that pupils will enrol on AS Chemistry and decide during the year whether they want to continue to A Level. There is an emphasis on learning through doing, so practical investigations feature in the lessons.

AS LEVEL

The AS Level qualification is taught through 4 modules.

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills - this module underpins the whole of the qualification and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement.

Module 2: Foundations in chemistry - this module covers the concepts that are required throughout both the AS and A Level qualifications.

Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy - this module looks at the trends and patterns found within the periodic table and the energy changes associated with reactions.

Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry - this module looks at the foundations required in organic chemistry including the chemistry of hydrocarbons and alcohols, organic synthesis and analytical techniques.

AS Level chemistry is assessed through two written examinations; Breadth in Chemistry and Depth in Chemistry. Each paper makes up 50% of the AS qualification.

A2 LEVEL

A2 Chemistry builds on the 4 modules studied at AS Level through the teaching of 2 additional modules.

Module 5: Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements - this module looks in greater depth at reaction rates and equilibrium, the chemistry of acids, redox and electrode potentials and the chemistry of transition elements. The module also builds on the energy changes associated with reactions.

Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis - this module builds on the concepts studied in Module 4. Aromatic and carbonyl compounds are studied, along with nitrogen-based compounds. Additional organic synthesis techniques are investigated as well as analysis techniques.

A2 Level Chemistry is assessed through 3 examinations. Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry forms 37% of the qualification. Synthesis and analytical techniques form another 37%. Unified chemistry forms the remaining 26% of the qualification. The practical endorsement in chemistry (non-exam assessment) forms the final part of the qualification.

CHEMISTRY

A LEVEL

Entry Requirements:

It is strongly recommended that you study separate science at GCSE if you are thinking of studying A Level Chemistry. A grade 6 in Chemistry (grade 6, 6 in Combined Science) is the minimum entry requirement. A grade 5 in Maths is also desirable. It is also important that you have a genuine interest in chemistry and the sciences, with a strong study ethic.

Is this for me?

Studying A Level Chemistry opens doors to a wide variety of possible careers, including such diverse fields as agriculture, forensics, environmental science, food sciences, dentistry, medicine, veterinary medicine and engineering, as well as a huge variety of fields in chemistry itself.

Chemistry is also a respected numerate qualification and supports careers in accountancy, banking and finance.

It should be noted that regarding medicine and veterinary medicine, most universities regard a good Chemistry grade as more important than any other subject.

Chemistry is often described as the 'central science' and complements subjects such as Biology, Physics, Maths and Geography wonderfully, but common themes can be found in almost any subject.

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