



September 2021

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

A-level Chemistry Assessment and Intervention

Welcome to the Sackville A-level chemistry course and thank you for enrolling. We are confident you will enjoy what is a satisfyingly, challenging and enriching journey for the next 2 years.

Below is some information about how the course is run, what assessments to expect and what interventions we have in place to support you if you need them.

Content Structure

The course is split up into 3 sections: Physical & Inorganic Chemistry Content, Organic Chemistry Content and Required Practicals.

The specific topics covered for each of the above sections can be found as separate documents in your welcome pack or online when you join your Google classroom in our first lesson.

Assessment

For each topic you are taught there will be an assessed homework and an end of topic test. The end of topic tests will always cover at least 2 topics (sometimes more as some topics have less content). There will also be 2 mock exams. One in the spring term after all content has been covered and one in the summer term as part of your preparation for your end of year progression exams. You will also have received guidance (see end of document) on how much and what type of work you should be doing at home to help you succeed.

A-Level chemistry is a particularly difficult course and is unforgiving to those with poor work ethics. There will be a test in the first week of October that will help us all (you and us) decide if this is a suitable course for you.

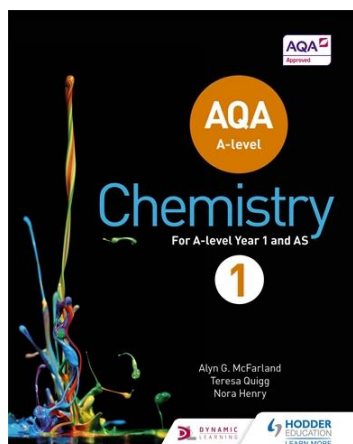
This is early enough in the year to enable you to change course if needed. **This first test is particularly important and if you fail to get at least 50% we may ask you to drop chemistry and choose another course.**

To ensure that this test is fair on students, 40% of the marks on this test will be on GCSE double science content (which triple students will have been taught as well). This will also make sure that you understand the basics of chemistry to a reasonable level before continuing the course.

Some of the basic skills required for an A-level in chemistry are also assessed at the start of the course as part of our GCSE to A-level transition programme. Please do make good use of the transition tests in the first week and make sure that you identify and improve upon your areas for improvement. You will have every opportunity in the first 2 weeks of the course to ask for help in any of the basic skills.

Textbooks

We use the following textbook in year 12.



ISBN: 9781471807671

Link: <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/science/products/16-18/aqa-a-level-chemistry-year-1-student-book>

Students may either buy their own textbook, or borrow one of the school textbooks. If borrowing, they have to **pay a returnable £10 deposit (£20 for the 2 year book)**. before we can hand out the textbook. Please note that this deposit is returned only if the book has been looked after and is in the same condition as it was when borrowed. Deposits can be paid online or by cash in the Finance office.

Interventions

As with any challenging course, we have some support measures available if you find that you are struggling to keep up or if you are more than 1 whole grade away from your target. These can include extra sessions during your free lessons or after school, targeted practice on sections where you need it and dedicated practice time to spend in your teacher's classroom when you and they have a free. If you are feeling overwhelmed and need help keeping up, then please do contact us or Mrs Barden on these emails:

Francisco Langford – flangford@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Liz Hicks – lhicks@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Henry Groves – hgroves@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Amanda Barden – abarden@sackvilleschool.org.uk

We wish you all the best on your 2 year chemistry course, and hope you'll enjoy it as much as we do!

Yours sincerely

Mr F Langford
Curriculum Leader of Chemistry

AS Chemistry Assessments (exact dates for these will be announced as and when we know them)

Approximate Time of year	Physical & Inorganic Chemistry	Approximate Time of year	Organic Chemistry
September	Assessed HW 1 – Atomic Structure & Mass Spectrometry	September	Assessed HW 1 - Bonding
October	Basic Skills Test + Research Task for Required Practical 1	October	Research Task for Required Practical RP3
October	Assessed HW 2 – Stoichiometry (Amount of substance)	November	Assessed HW 2 - Kinetics
October	Test on Atomic Structure & Amount of Substance	November	Test on Bonding & Kinetics
November	Research Task for Required Practical 2	December	Assessed HW 3 - Alkanes
December	Assessed HW 3 - Energetics	January	Assessed HW 4 – Halogen alkanes
December	Assessed HW 4 - Equilibria	January	Mock exam
December	Test on Energetics & Equilibria	February	Assessed HW 5 - Alkenes
January	Assessed HW 5 - Redox	February	Research Task for Required Practical RP5
January	Assessed HW 6 – Group 2	March	Assessed HW 6 - Alcohols
January	Research Task for Required Practical 4	March	Research Task for Required Practical RP6
January	Assessed HW 7 – Group 7	April	Assessed HW 7 – Organic Analysis
February	Assessed HW 8 - Periodicity	April	Mock Exam 1 – Paper 1 & Paper 2
February	Test on Periodicity, Group 2 & Group 7	June	Mock Exam 2 – Paper 1 & Paper 2
April	Mock Exam 1 – Paper 1 & Paper 2	July	Progression Exams – Paper 1 & Paper 2
June	Mock Exam 2 – Paper 1 & Paper 2		
July	Progression Exams – Paper 1 & Paper 2		

To Maintain Sufficient Progress In AS Chemistry You Are Recommended To Carry Out All These Tasks

Make a key word glossary for each topic with a unit. This should be done in a separate exercise book and brought to all lessons. This should be a fluid document that is constantly updated in lessons and at home. **Key words and definitions** can be found in the text book. Students should ensure they understand the terminology before facing a difficult concept.

Always ask questions in lessons when you have not understood a concept.

Practice using the skills you learn in lessons! We recommend doing at least 3 hours a week of chemistry work at home.

Consider moving to the front of the class to ensure that you are fully engaged in every learning opportunity.

Download the AQA Chemistry specification from www.aqa.org.uk. Bring this to all lessons and use it as a check list to structure your work at school and home.

Download past papers from the AQA website to help with exam technique. You can access the mark schemes as well so that you can monitor your understanding from home.

Make revision cards/concept cards to help summarise and commit to memory the learning that has taken place in a particular chapter. This will help when it comes to revision for mid-term exams.

Understand the concept - learn the concept- then apply the concept to other scenarios --- this is chemistry! When all the pieces of the puzzle fit it really is a fascinating subject.

Please see the attached link for a good 'Bridging the Gap GCSE to A-level textbook' you may want to purchase to bring your GCSE knowledge up to a higher baseline to help prepare for each lesson.

https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books_a_level_chemistry.book_CBR71

ISBN: 978 1 78294 280 1

Here is one we recommend if you struggle with Maths:

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/as-and-a-level/science/chemistry/cmr71-a-level-chemistry-essential-maths-skills>

ISBN: 9781782944720