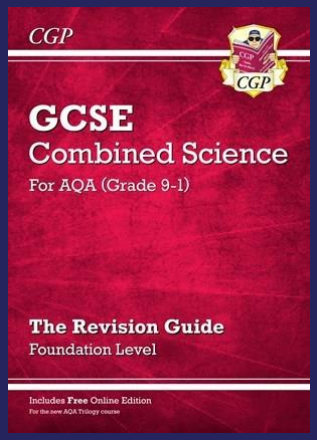
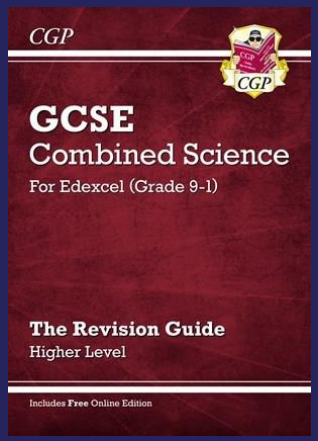
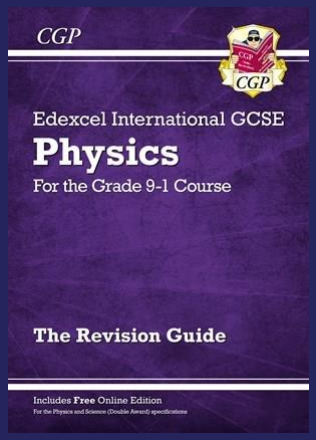
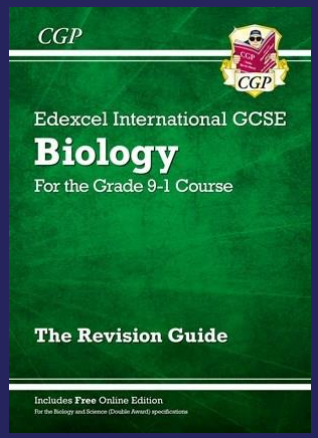
Year 8 options information

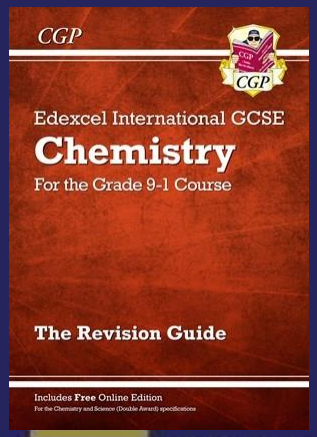
Science











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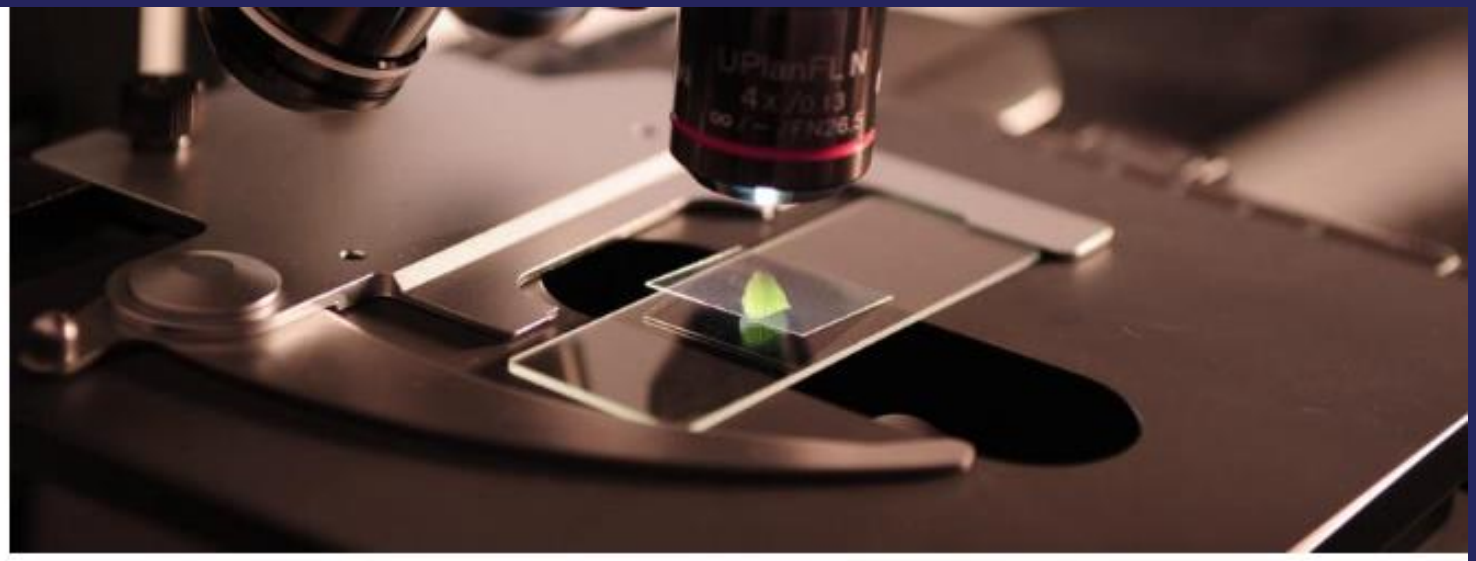


Is It Worth Taking GCSE Triple Science?

In GCSE by Think Student Editor / February 8, 2021 / Leave a Comment

Making the right choices for your GCSE subjects can be tricky, especially when it comes to Science. Many students feel overwhelmed by the thought of studying all three Sciences in more detail especially if they aren't even aiming for a Science-related career. So, what should you take: Double Science or Triple Science? What's the difference between the two? And what advantages does one have over the other?

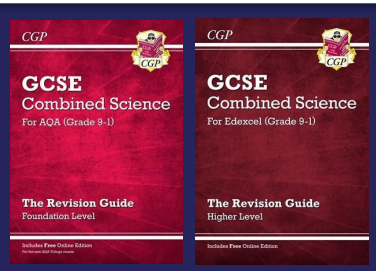
In short, if Science is a subject you enjoy, Triple Science is worth taking. It may prove to be an easier route than Double Science since Double Science students often take an additional subject. Plus, it brings about a multitude of benefits, such as a smoother transition to A-Level Science and invaluable knowledge and more opportunities to develop specific transferrable skills. However, if Science is something you do not do well at, Double Science may be a more advisable option, as Triple Science requires a greater understanding of tricky scientific concepts and contains more content which you will eventually have to revise.

- **Advantages of triple science**
- **Easier transition into A-level.** Because the triple Science course covers more content, students wishing to study sciences at A-level will be better prepared than combined science students.
- **Favoured by employers & FE Institutions.** If your child is planning to study a science-related subject at A-level and university then doing triple science will be better as employers and further education institutions will favour triple science over double science.
- **Disadvantages of triple science**
- **More content to cover.** Triple science means the child will be taking an extra option. This means, there'll be much more content to cover and hence more for the child to learn.
- **More challenging content.** Triple science is more challenging with harder and more advanced content. This means that triple science does not cater to everyone. In fact, only a small number of students take this route.

- **Advantages of double science**
- **Less content to cover.** A child studying double science will effectively be doing one less option. So, they'll have more time to focus on other GCSE options as well as work on improving their double science grades.
- **Two identical grades awarded.** In double science, a child is awarded two grades based on their performance across all three sciences. These grades will either be the same grade or +/-1 grade. This can be an advantage for the child because if they are particularly strong at one or two sciences , it can help bring their overall grades up.
- **Disadvantage of double science**
- **Harder Transition to A level –** Students doing combined science will miss out on some additional concept that bridges the gap between GCSE and A-level. So, if they chose to study a science-related subject at A-level, they may need to spend a small amount of time catching up on key topics early on in their first year of A-levels. It is important to note here that a child can still do A-level science with double science grades. They may just find they need to cover some gaps earlier on.

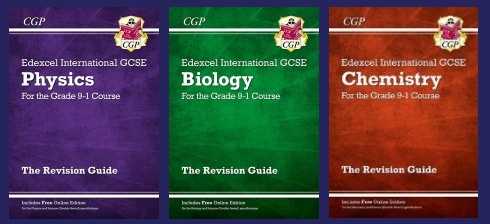
Course structure

Combined science (2 GCSE course)



- Route taken by most students offering x2 GCSE (combined science)
- Higher and foundation pathways
- One teacher delivers all three science disciplines

Triple science (3 GCSE course)



- Route taken by students with aptitude for science offering x3 GCSE (biology, chemistry and physics)
- Higher and foundation pathways
- Three teachers - each delivers a specific science discipline
- Additional modules in this course and as such additional lessons in timetable

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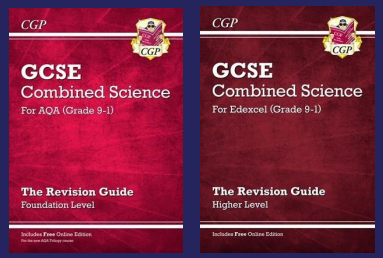
Course details

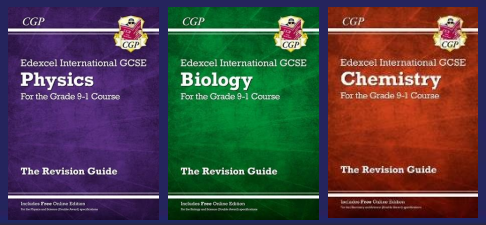
Combined science (2 GCSE course)

- Biology paper 1 (B1-4 units)
- Biology paper 2 (B5-7 units)
- Chemistry paper 1 (C1-5 units)
- Chemistry paper 2 (C6-10 units)
- Physics paper 1 (P1-4 units)
- Physics paper 2 (P5-7 units)
- Incorporated in these units are over 20 required practicals that students can be questioned on in their exams



Triple science (3 GCSE course)

- Biology paper 1 (B1-4 units)
- Biology paper 2 (B5-7 units)
- Chemistry paper 1 (C1-5 units)
- Chemistry paper 2 (C6-10 units)
- Physics paper 1 (P1-4 units)
- Physics paper 2 (P5-8 units)
- Incorporated in these units are over 20 required practicals that students can be questioned on in their exams
- Note additional unit for physics and additional triple science only content in most units



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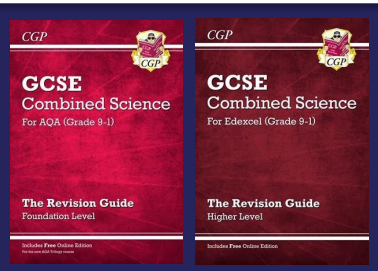
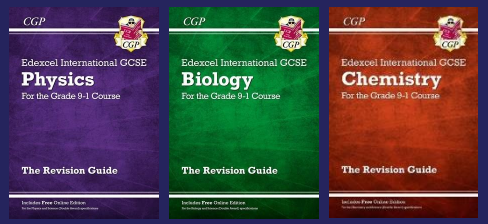
Method of assessment

Combined science (2 GCSE course)



- X6 exams at the end of the course (Year 11 Summer term)
- Each exam is 1hr 15mins
- Foundation = grades 1-5
- Higher = Grades 4-9
- X2 papers for biology
- X2 papers for chemistry
- X2 papers for physics

Triple science (3 GCSE course)



- X6 exams at the end of the course (Year 11 Summer term)
- Each exam is 1hr 45mins
- Foundation = grades 1-5
- Higher = grades 4-9
- X2 papers for biology
- X2 papers for chemistry
- X2 papers for physics

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