

Physics

Exam Board	OCR
Course Entry Criteria	7 in Physics or 7 - 7 in Combined Science GCSE (although the separate-science GCSE is advantageous).
Essential skills	Physics requires secure analytical, practical and problem-solving skills, together with the ability to communicate scientific ideas and concepts. You will need to have strong mathematical skills: the ability to manipulate algebra and analyse data. The content builds upon the topics studied at GCSE and prepares students for university study.
Year 12	The purpose of this course is to make physics exciting and relevant for everyone, through a selection of contemporary content and a range of delivery modes; it sets physics in a variety of contexts, illustrating connections with everyday life, people, places and cultures; and rewards students for initiative and commitment and allows them to develop their own interests. In Year 12 the following topics are studied: 1. Practical skills, 2. Foundations of physics, 3. Forces and motion & 4. Electrons, waves and photons
Year 13	In Year 13 students continue their studies with the following topics: 5. Newtonian world and astrophysics, 6. Particles and medical physics This qualification is linear, which means that students will sit all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course in Year 13. The A-level Assessment is via three papers. Paper 1 - Modelling Physics (2 h 15 min) covers topics 1, 2, 3 and 5. Paper 2 - Exploring Physics (2 h 15 min) covers topics 1, 2, 4 and 6. Both papers carry 100 marks and contain a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short-answer and extended-response questions. Paper 3 - Unified Physics (1 h 30 min) covers all topics 1-6. This paper carries 70 marks and is assessed via short-answer and extended-response questions. There is no longer any coursework contributing to the assessment grade; however, practical skills are assessed by teachers (as a separate practical endorsement) and will be reported separately, alongside the qualification grade on your certificate.
University requirements	Oxbridge A* A A Russell Group Universities A* A A to A B B Other Universities A A A to B B B
Related courses and careers	BSc / MSc Degree in Physics, Physical Sciences and other related degree courses. Recognised as a facilitating subject by Russell Group Universities. Qualifications in physics offer a variety of career paths ranging from research to teaching to business and finance. For further details please go to: https://www.iop.org/careers-physics/your-future-with-physics
Other Details	The specification is OCR Physics A H556: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is assessed by examination only • It is linear, with assessment in the summer series of Year 13 • It has practical skills assessed by teachers (practical endorsement) and reported separately, alongside the qualification grade on the certificate • It has specified practical work that must be undertaken by learners in order that they are suitably prepared for the written examinations • Mathematical skills are assessed with a weighting of 40% across each series