

Overview of changes in the Twenty First Century Science suite

(Comparison of draft Twenty First Century Science specifications with the current Twenty First Century Science specifications)

	What stays the same	What changes
Structure	<p>Biology A, Chemistry A & Physics A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course can be taught as modular or linear. Four units, comprising three externally assessed units and one internally assessed unit. Externally assessed units are tiered – Foundation and Higher Tier. <p>Science A & Additional Science A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be taught as modular or linear. Two routes to each GCSE using either separate science papers (Route 1) or Science and Additional Science mixed-science papers (Route 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science A and Additional Science A reduced from five to four units, comprising three externally assessed units and one internally assessed unit. All four units have equal weightings of 25%. Controlled Assessment replaces coursework. No 'Ideas in Context' paper, and no pre-release material for externally assessed units.
Content	<p>Biology A, Chemistry A & Physics A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is divided into 7 modules. Modules B7, C7 and P7 are equivalent in length to any three modules from B1-B6, C1-C6 and P1-P6 respectively. <p>Science A & Additional Science A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is divided into 9 modules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New module B4, 'The processes of life', replaces 'Homeostasis'. Module B7, 'Further biology', updated and includes aspects of the original modules B4 and B7. New module C3 'Chemicals in our lives', replaces 'Food Matters'. Module P3, 'Radioactive materials' is reorganised, some content retained in new P3 'Sustainable energy' and the rest transferred to the new P6 'Radioactive materials'. Parts of the original P6, 'The wave model of radiation' are transferred to the updated P2, 'Radiation and life'.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Science the internally assessed unit is based on a Case Study and Practical Data Analysis for Science. In Additional Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, the internally assessed unit is based on a Practical Investigation. Modules are externally assessed within written examination papers. Ideas about Science (How Science Works) are written into the specification content. January and June assessments are available for written papers. Controlled Assessment available in June series only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New terminal and re-sit rules apply to science GCSEs. There will be a choice of controlled assessment tasks set by OCR, each valid for entry in a single examination series. The Controlled Assessment for Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be based on a Practical Investigation only. Controlled Assessment is worth 25%, and will be simpler to mark and administer. Ideas about Science are associated with all units. Externally assessed papers are each 1 hour long, with a total of 60 marks divided between objective (worth 40%) and free-response style questions.