

# AS and A level Chemistry 2015

A guide to our  
new qualifications

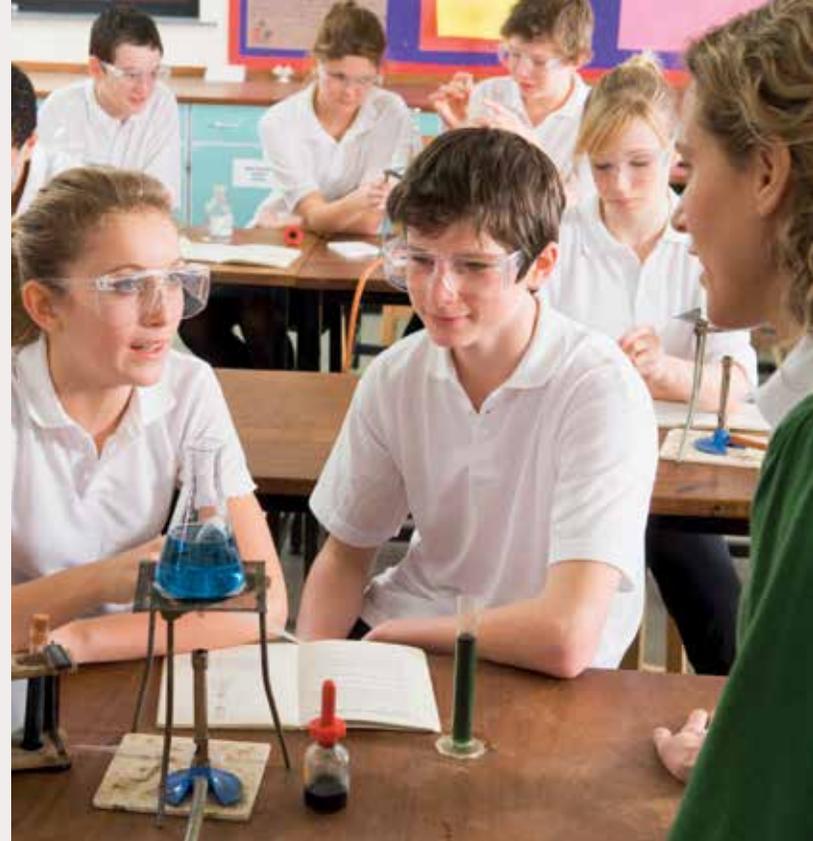




# AS and A level Chemistry are changing from September 2015

We promise to provide you with the most up-to-date information on the reforms for 2015 and the support you need to help you prepare for specification change.

This brochure is designed to outline the key changes and explains what they mean for your students. We will show you how we are addressing the new requirements in our new qualifications, and the support available to you.



## Key changes to A level for 2015

There are some structural changes to AS and A level Science subjects from 2015. The following changes will apply to all exam board specifications:

- **AS will become a standalone qualification** – results from AS examinations will not count towards the final A level grade.
- **AS will be a linear qualification** with examinations taking place at the end of the course.
- **A levels will be two-year courses**, with all examinations – covering material learned across both years of the course – taken in the summer of Year 13.
- **Coursework units are being replaced** with a new way to assess practical skills.

# What do these changes mean for Chemistry?

The new subject criteria are designed to help learners keep pace with the world's highest performing countries, ensuring students have the appropriate foundation to progress to undergraduate study or the workplace.

## Key changes for AS and A level Chemistry

- Subject content effectively unchanged.
- Content revised to ensure that it adequately prepares learners for university courses.
- Focus on core chemical principals within the specification.
- Questions involving the use of mathematical skills in Chemistry will contribute 20% of the assessment total.
- Coursework removed at AS and A level.
- Assessment of 'practical competency' will be teacher led and reported on separately, to assess the ability of learners.
- Question papers will include written assessment of practical skills.

We've thought hard about these challenges when **structuring our specifications and assessments**, and developing our **support materials**. We want to provide an experience that is both challenging and inclusive – and empowering for **all learners**.

See full details of the changes at  
[www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide](http://www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide)





Photo: Veer / Zhenikeyev

# How our AS and A level Chemistry qualifications address the changes



Our Science team have been engaging teachers, subject stakeholders and a range of universities to understand the changes required to provide robust, high-quality qualifications for our learners of the future.

We are confident our new **AS and A level Chemistry qualifications** offers an engaging approach, providing a secure foundation for further study or entry to the workplace.

## Co-teachability of AS and A level

Although AS is a stand-alone qualification, the AS content is fully co-teachable with the first year of the A level Chemistry course.

*The information provided is based on Pearson's draft specifications submitted to Ofqual and are subject to change in the final accredited qualifications.*





## Highlights

- **Clearly organised specifications with revised content**  
A sensible balance of inorganic, organic and physical chemistry, with a focus on topics that allow progression to a wide range of HE courses. There is a greater emphasis on the cornerstones of Chemistry.
- **Clear guidance and support in the development of practical skills**  
We have integrated a series of core practicals into the specifications, allowing learners to master a range of practical skills and techniques followed by written assessment, using question styles proven to work in our current International GCSE and A level courses.

- **High-quality assessments designed to give greater consistency**  
An additional set of specimen question papers will be available for mock exams, along with additional exemplar student answers with examiner commentary for guidance. Two topic-based assessments are provided to ensure breadth of coverage of theory. A third paper focuses on the assessment of practical skills.
- **A personal, local support promise**  
In addition to face-to-face training programmes, we will establish collaborative networks, providing centres with local opportunities to receive more support from us, and each other.

- **Extensive support for planning, delivery and tracking learner progress**  
Schemes of Work and Mapping documents will be provided at launch to ensure ease of transition and assist with planning. Support for the new requirements of the practical aspects of the qualifications is being provided through a variety of CPD courses.

### Podcasts



Listen to our Senior Product Manager for Science, Damian Riddle, explain the changes to AS and A level more fully by listening to our podcasts. Visit [www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemPodcasts](http://www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemPodcasts)

Find out more at [www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide](http://www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide)

# How we're supporting you

We're dedicated to providing the support you need to plan and implement the new Edexcel AS and A level Chemistry specifications successfully, including:

- **Getting Started guides** – summarising the changes to the qualifications with guidance for planning your teaching and learning.
- **Student and Teacher guides** to support you with mathematical and practical work.
- Establishing **collaborative networks** in your local area to provide our centres with local opportunities to receive a more personal degree of support from us, and each other.
- **Comprehensive bank of exemplar student work**, with examiner commentary, available prior to first teaching.
- **Additional set of specimen question papers**, to provide an opportunity for additional mock exams for your students.
- **A dedicated Science Subject Advisor** available to provide you with personal support whenever you need it.



## Training

We are running a series of **FREE launch and network events** during 2014 to talk you through the changes to AS and A level from September 2015 and to introduce our new AS and A level Chemistry specifications.

## FREE LAUNCH EVENTS

Book on to one of our free launch events at [www.edexcel.com/training](http://www.edexcel.com/training)



# Exam preparation and results support services

## ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus, our free online service, gives instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam and mock performance, helping you to help them more effectively.

Mock Analysis provides a bank of exam papers for you to set mock exams and practice tests for your students. The reporting function provides instant analysis of performance, allowing you to track progress and focus revision more effectively.

[www.edexcel.com/ResultsPlus](http://www.edexcel.com/ResultsPlus)

## examWizard

examWizard is a free online resource, containing a huge bank of past paper questions and support materials to help you create your own mock exams and tests.

[www.examwizard.com](http://www.examwizard.com)



Find out more at [www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide](http://www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide)



# Timeline for AS and A level Chemistry reform

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Current AS and A level Chemistry</b>	<b>June 2014</b> Summer exam series for the current AS and A2 Chemistry qualifications.	<b>June 2015</b> Summer exam series for the current AS and A2 Chemistry qualifications.	<b>June 2016</b> Final summer exam series for the current AS and A2 Chemistry qualifications.	
<b>AS and A level Chemistry from 2015</b>	<b>September 2014</b> New AS and A level Chemistry specifications available.*	<b>September 2015</b> First teaching of the new AS and A level Chemistry qualifications.	<b>June 2016</b> First exam series for the new AS Chemistry qualification.	<b>June 2017</b> First exam series for the new A level Chemistry qualification.**

\* Subject to Ofqual accreditation

\*\* There is no longer an AS/A2 split. A levels will now be assessed at the end of the two year course only.

## Stay up-to-date

Sign up to receive the latest news on our new specifications and the changes to A level. Visit [www.edexcel.com/ChemGuideSignUp](http://www.edexcel.com/ChemGuideSignUp)



Find out more at  
[www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide](http://www.edexcel.com/AlevelChemistryGuide)



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