Presenting our new AS and A level Physics qualifications

Pearson

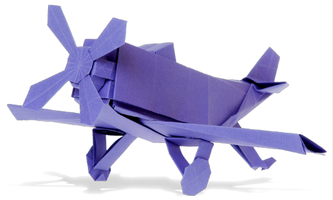
The new Pearson Edexcel Physics specifications are available for AS and A level. These are **linear** qualifications.
All examination papers must be taken in the same series.

The specification is divided into **several** topics.

The topics for AS Physics are the same as those for the first year of A level, so that the two specifications are **co-teachable**.

AS:
Available in summer.
First assessment summer 2016

A level:
Available in summer.
First assessment summer 2017



Approaches to teaching AS and A level Physics

The **Salters-Horners (SHAP)** materials provide a **context based** route through the Physics specification. You can also teach the specification using a **concept-based** route, if you prefer.

The Physics is the same within the two routes, so you can "mix and match" your teaching to suit each topic.

AS

Both papers include assessment of maths and practical skills.

Paper 1

50% weighting

80 marks

1 hour and 30 minutes

Covers half the AS content*

Find out more

Paper 2

50% weighting

80 marks

1 hour and 30 minutes

Covers half the AS content*

Find out more

Note:
AS is a **stand-alone** qualification.

Marks achieved on AS papers do **not** form part of the final A level grade.

*AS papers have a synoptic Section B.

A level

All papers include assessment of maths.

Paper 3 includes assessment of practical skills.

Paper 1

30% weighting

90 marks

1 hour and 45 minutes

Covers half the A level topics and some AS content

Find out more

Paper 2

30% weighting

90 marks

1 hour and 45 minutes

Covers half the A level topics and some AS content

Find out more

Paper 3

40% weighting

120 marks

2 hours and 30 minutes

Covers all AS and A level topics

Find out more

What you told us you wanted from the new AS and A level Physics:

- 'The specification needs to be presented in a logical order.'
- 'Guidance on the sort of maths we should teach.'
- 'Topics that interest our students – especially space and particle physics.'
- 'We'd like to see a mixture of question types and questions set in interesting contexts.'

New assessment of practical skills

A level is 100% externally assessed (no coursework)

Core practicals appear in the specification content; **practical-based questions** are also in the exams.

Teacher-assessed **practical competency**, based on core practical activities, reported alongside the A level grade.

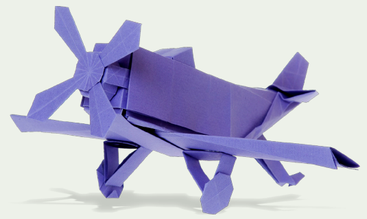
Find out more

Assessing mathematical skills

Makes up **40%** of the assessment and AS at A level.

Maths needs to be assessed at **Level 2** (GCSE Higher tier) **or above**.

How **AS** and **A level Physics** will be assessed



AS paper 1

- Mechanics
- Electric circuits
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

Back

AS paper 2

- Materials
- Waves and the particle nature of light
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

Back

Both AS papers have a Section B, which can draw on topics from the whole AS specification

A level paper 1

- Further mechanics
- Electric and magnetic fields
- Nuclear and particle physics
- Some AS topics

Back

A level paper 2

- Thermodynamics
- Space
- Nuclear radiation
- Gravitational fields
- Oscillations
- Some AS topics

Back

A level paper 3

- General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

Back

Practical assessment

- There are **16 core practicals** that cover all of the **12 techniques** required for the practical competency measure.
- Knowledge of all core practicals can be tested within exam papers.
- Core practicals form part of the practical competency assessment.

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