

# Presenting our new AS and A level Physics qualifications

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**.

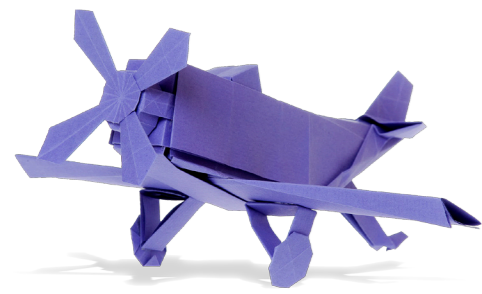
AS:  
Available in summer.  
*First assessment  
summer 2016*

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.



## 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.’

## AS

Both papers include assessment of maths and practical skills.

### Paper 1

**50% weighting**



**80 marks**

Covers half the AS content\*

[Find out more](#)

### Paper 2

**50% weighting**



**80 marks**

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.

## 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](#)

## A level

All papers include assessment of maths.

Paper 3 includes assessment of practical skills.

### Paper 1

**30% weighting**



**90 marks**

Covers half the A level topics and some AS content

[Find out more](#)

### Paper 2

**30% weighting**



**90 marks**

Covers half the A level topics and some AS content

[Find out more](#)

### Paper 3

**40% weighting**



**120 marks**

Covers all AS and A level topics

[Find out more](#)

## Assessing mathematical skills

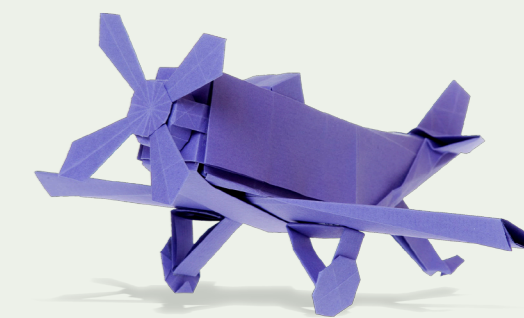


Makes up **40%** of the assessment and AS at A level.



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)

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## AS paper 2

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

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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

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## A level paper 2

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

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## A level paper 3

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

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## 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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