

Edexcel Entry Level Certificate: Myth busting!

What is Edexcel Entry Level Certificate?

Edexcel Entry Level Certificate (ELC) in Science is designed for students working below or at the lower end of the GCSE Combined Science Foundation tier. With a wide range of qualifications available, it's easy for misconceptions to be picked up. We hope this infographic will be able to help bust any myths around ELC.

Myth

“ ELC Science cannot be taught alongside GCSE Science ”

Truth

ELC has been specifically designed to meet the needs of these students and can be taught as a stand-alone qualification or in conjunction with GCSE Combined Science.

The subject content of the scheme focuses on the key topics and concepts of the Foundation tier course, but at a level that is more accessible and more appropriate to lower attaining students.



Myth

“ There are two ELC qualifications and students are only able to study one ”

Truth

There are two separate Entry Level Science qualifications: Entry Level Certificate in Science and the Entry Level Certificate in Further Science. This reflects the “double award nature” of GCSE Combined Science.

Candidates can be entered for either ELC qualification or even for both these qualifications. The demand and structure of each award are the same.

Here you can see how the units are broken up underneath each qualification. Each qualification is broken into 6 manageable units; two biology, two chemistry and two physics. The method of assessment consists of short unit tests which students can sit when they are ready to and at any time during the course.

Entry Level Certificate in Science	Entry Level Certificate in Further Science
B1A – Cells, genetics, inheritance and modification	B2A – Plants and ecosystems
B1B – Health, disease and the development of medicines	B2B – Human biology
C1A – Atoms, compounds and states of matter	C2A – Chemical reactions: patterns, energy and rates of reaction
C1B – Separating mixtures, breaking down substances acids and metals	C2B – Chemistry in our world: fuels and the earth's atmosphere
P1A – Forces, movement and energy	P2A – Electricity and magnets
P1B – Waves and radiation	P2B – Energy and particles

Myth

“ Students can't study ELC and GCSE together ”

Truth

We have created an Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Support Edition including Entry Level Certificate, which is more accessible for students targeting grades 1-3. This supports the co-teaching of Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science and the new Entry Level Certificate, allowing you to see how lower attainers cope with the KS4 content and assessments before deciding whether to enter them for the GCSE or ELC.

Both ELC courses are designed to link closely to the Combined Science GCSE course so your students can achieve credit for both the ELC course and have an opportunity to access the questions on the GCSE papers.

Combined Science Units	Entry Level Certificate in Science	Entry Level Certificate in Further Science
B1	Paper 1: Biology 1A / Paper 2: Biology 1B	
C1	Paper 3 Chemistry 1A / Paper 4: Chemistry 1B	
P1	Paper 5: Physics 1A / Paper 6 Physics 1B	
B2		Paper 1: Biology 2A / Paper 2: Biology 2B
C2		Paper 3: Biology 2A / Paper 4: Biology 2B
P2		Paper 5: Physics 2A / Paper 6: Physics 2B

This table shows how the ELC units match up with the 6 papers taken for the GCSE in combined Science.

Myth

“ My students are following the AQA exam board for GCSE Science this Edexcel course won't be compatible. ”

Truth

ELC is suitable to be taught alongside any GCSE awarding body and has a specific mapping document to help understand how the courses link.



Myth

“ ELC won't help students that may have fallen behind during homeschooling ”

Truth

ELC is the perfect qualification to help any learner who may have fallen behind during homeschooling time because it allows them to catch up in a measured way, focusing on the key concepts found in the GCSE curriculum. It is especially valuable for low attaining students who may have lost confidence since being away from the traditional school environment. Once learners are back up to speed, they can then continue with their GCSE science course. Learners can achieve recognition for their ELC course and their GCSE course by the end of their time at school.

Myth

“ ELC must be delivered in a specific way ”

Truth

Entry Level Certificate can be used in different ways depending on the ability of your students and the situation they are in.

For some, a single ELC award taught over two years on a unit by unit basis might prove to be most productive and appropriate in meeting and serving the students' needs.

For slightly stronger students both ELC qualifications could be followed over two years: one ELC qualification per year or both spread simultaneously over the two-year period. Not forgetting that they can also be registered for the standard GCSE Combined Science exams if appropriate.

