**Year 10 Science Progress Assessment**

**Key questions and answers for the year 10 exam**

**What is the Year 10 exam?**

**A:** It is a formal assessment to be sat by Year 10 students in May 2017. This will test content from the Edexcel specification that will have been covered by students in Year 9/10. It will be sat on a specified day, in exam conditions, and will be marked by our GCSE examiners.

**Is the Year 10 exam a on-going service or a one-off service?**

**A:** This is a one-off service and only being offered in 2017. This is to support schools with the new GCSE (9-1) qualifications before the 2018 first award.

**When are the exams?**

**A:** In May 2017, before the summer exam series starts.

Biology 2nd May 2017

Chemistry 3Rd May 2017

Physics 4th May 2017

**How can I enter students?**

**A:** Exams officers can make entries from the 14th November 2016 via Edexcel online and EDI. Entry codes can be found at the end of this document.

**What can I enter students for?**

**A:** You can enter students for the Separate Sciences or Combined Science.

Separate scientists and combined scientists won't have different papers, but we're asking you to enter using different entry codes so we can split the two groups out for analysis purposes. So for example, you'll be able to see how your separate science students fared against the other separate science students sitting the exams.

**What if I am not an Edexcel centre, can I take part?**

**A**:This service is one we’re offering free to centres who choose Edexcel for GCSE 9-1. However, we do appreciate that thefinal decision on entries for the new GCSEs won’t be made until spring 2018. If your centre takes part in the free Year 10 examinations in 2017 but does not then make a similar number\* of entries with us for GCSE in 2018, we will simply invoice you in 2018 for the Year 10 entries, at a cost of £15 per candidate.

**\***the charge will be made where a) entries for the year 10 exam are over 10 candidates and b) entries in 2018 are less than 90% of the number of entries made in 2017.

**Will my students get a 9-1 grade?**

**A:** With the new grading scale coming in, there will be a recalibration of the standard. Until we know from Ofqual exactly how this is going to work, it will not be possible to grade these exams and be confident that the grades we’re awarding aren’t misleading. We want the results of this exam to be as useful and informative for you as possible. Instead of grading these exams, we will tell you where your students fall in terms of the distribution of the cohort sitting this set of Edexcel Year 10 exams. So, for example, you’ll learn that a particular student was in the 60-65th percentile.

**How do I get the results? Is there a results day?**

**A:** Results will all be released to schools on the same day, on the 14th September 2017. The results will be available via Edexcel online, EDI and in ResultsPlus, our free online analysis tool, for teachers to view.

We will not be issuing printed certificates however you will be able to download the *‘Candidate statement of provisional results’.*

The statement of results will show the students paper mark and their ventile result.

**How do these results relate to the GCSE results?**

**A:** These results are designed to help you understand how your students are progressing on the GCSE course, and identify where their strengths and weaknesses are. They are not a guarantee of GCSE performance.

**What is a ventile result?**

**A:** It is not possible to award students grades for this set of Edexcel year 10 exams in the same way as a GCSE. Instead, we will tell you where your students fall in terms of the distribution of the cohort sitting them. Each student will receive their ventile score; a ventile being a position across 19 ‘grade points’. These grade points will relate to the cumulative % of performance. The table below shows details how this may look.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative % performance | Ventile awarded |
| 0-<5      Top ranking | 95 Top ranking |
| 5-<10 | 90 |
| 10-<15 | 85 |
| 15-<20 | 80 |
| 20-<25 | 75 |
| 25-<30 | 70 |
| 30-<35 | 65 |
| 35-<40 | 60 |
| 40-<45 | 55 |
| 45-<50 | 50 |
| 50-<55 | 45 |
| 55-<60 | 40 |
| 60-<65 | 35 |
| 65 -<70 | 30 |
| 70-<75 | 25 |
| 75-<80 | 20 |
| 80-<85 | 15 |
| 85-<90 | 10 |
| 90-<95 | 5 |
| 95-<100 | 0 |

**What will I see in ResultsPlus?**

**A:** You’ll see each student’s result, plus a question-by-question breakdown, so you can see the areas where your students performed best and where their weaknesses are. Plus you’ll be able to see how your students’ results compare to the rest of the cohort sitting this set of Edexcel Year 10 exams, so you’ll get a lot of useful data.

You can access ResultsPlus here: <https://www.resultsplusdirect.co.uk/ResultsPlus/Default.aspx>

Your exams officers will know your centres username and password.

**Will the year 10 exam result count towards a student final GCSE grade in 2018?**

**A:** No. This is purely a formative assessment opportunity. We are choosing to move beyond just providing mock papers to running this as a scheduled set of examinations as you indicated this would provide a motivating experience for students, as well as giving you confidence through external marking.

**How many papers will there be?**

**A**:Each student will sit three papers: separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics papers. Tiered entry is available, so studentscan be entered for Higher or Foundation.

**How long will each paper be?**

**A**:1 hour long and 50 marks

**What content will be covered in the exam?**

**A:** The Year 10 exam papers will cover content from the Combined Science specification only. This content will be drawn from Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1. However, as some students will have started the course in September 2016, not all topics from these papers will be covered. The topics covered will be based on the teaching order laid out in our schemes of work.

A full list of the topics that may be assessed is given below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Specification reference** | **Specification topic name** | **Edexcel Combined Science resources reference** |
| **BIOLOGY** |  |  |
| **Topic 1** | Key concepts in Biology | **CB1** Key Concepts in Biology |
| **Topic 2** | Cells and control | **CB2** Cells and Controls |
| **Topic 3** | Genetics | **CB3** Genetics |
| **Topic 4** | Natural selection and genetic modification | **CB4** Natural Selection and Genetic Modification |
| **CHEMISTRY** |  |  |
| **Topic 1** | Key concepts in Chemistry | **CC3** Atomic Structure  **CC4** The Periodic Table  **CC5** Ionic Bonding  **CC6** Covalent Bonding  **CC7**Types of Substance  **CC9** Calculations Involving Masses |
| **Topic 2** | States of matter and mixtures - States of matter | **CC1** States of Matter |
| **Topic 2** | States of matter and mixtures - Methods of separating and purifying substances | **CC2** Methods of Separating and Purifying Substances |
| **PHYSICS** |  |  |
| **Topic 1** | Key concepts in Physics | NA \* |
| **Topic 2** | Motion and forces | **CP2** Forces and Motion |
| **Topic 3** | Conservation of energy | **CP3** Conservation of Energy |
| **Topic 4** | Waves | **CP4** Waves |
| **Topic 5** | Light and the electromagnetic spectrum | **CP5** Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum |

**\*** 1.1 Recall and use the SI unit for physical quantities, as listed in Appendix 5   
1.2 Recall and use multiples and sub-multiples of units, including giga (G), mega (M), kilo (k), centi (c), milli (m), micro (μ) and nano (n) 3c   
1.3 Be able to convert between different units, including hours to seconds 1c   
1.4 Use significant figures and standard form where appropriate

**What are the Entry Codes?**

**Combined Science**  
Subject Code: **1SCY**  
Foundation Tier: Option F (Papers 1BF, 1CF, 1PF)  
Higher Tier: Option H (Papers 1BH, 1CH, 1PH)  
   
**Biology**  
Subject Code: **1BIZ**  
Foundation Tier: Option F (Paper 1BF)  
Higher Tier: Option H (Paper 1BH)  
   
**Chemistry**  
Subject Code: **1CHZ**  
Foundation Tier: Option F (Paper 1CF)  
Higher Tier: Option H (Paper 1CH)  
   
**Physics**  
Subject Code: **1PHZ**  
Foundation Tier: Option F (Paper 1PF)  
Higher Tier: Option H (Paper 1PH)  
  
NB the separate scientists and combined scientists won't have different papers, but we're asking you to enter using different entry codes so we can split the two groups out for analysis purposes. So for example, you'll be able to see how your separate science students fared against the other separate science students around the country.

**Entries from International centres**

We will accept entries from international centres for the year 10 exam but organisation and return of student scripts will be the centres responsibility. Given these exams are just before our live exam series start, we have a very tight schedule for scanning and marking. Scripts in the UK will be collected straight after exam.

We would appreciate the support of international centres in returning scripts as quickly as possible so that it is possible to meet our extremely tight deadlines.