

Year 10 Science Progress Assessment

Frequently asked questions for the Edexcel Year 10 Exam

What were the Year 10 Science Progress Assessments (Year 10 exam)?

They formal assessments/exams, sat by Year 10 students in May 2017. These papers tested content from the Edexcel specification that would have been covered by students in Year 9/10. The exams were sat on specified days, in exam conditions, and marked in August by our GCSE examiners.

Why did we offer this service?

We provided a live, authentic mock exam experience in advance of the first summer exams for the new GCSE (9-1) Science 2018 in order to help teachers track student progress and to allow them to compare the performance of their own students to students in other schools and colleges around the country.

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

This was a one-off service and only being offered in 2017. This was to support schools in preparing students for the new GCSE (9-1) Science first award in summer 2018.

How long was each paper and how does that compare to the papers expected in Summer 2018?

The Year 10 Progress Assessments were 1 hour long and 50 marks.
The GCSE (9-1) Combined Science papers are 1hr 10 and 60 marks.

How were the papers designed?

We wanted our Year 10 Progress Assessments, to be as an accurate a reflection of the live exams centres will sit for the first time in the summer of 2018, as possible.

In order to do this, we ensured that all the requirements of the live papers were fulfilled. So, we ensured there was 40% AO1 marks, 40% AO2 marks and 20% AO3 marks. In addition, we ensured that the papers had at least 15% of marks dedicated to practical skills. All our papers had the appropriate level of mathematics (Level 1 Maths at Higher tier, KS3 Maths at Foundation tier) at the agreed percentages (10% Biology, 20% Chemistry, 30% Physics).

Our papers were 50 marks and 60 minutes. The live papers will be 60 marks and 70 minutes, so the marks/minute ratio is extremely similar, and thus will give a realistic experience for candidate.

For more detail about the design of our papers, please see the document [Explaining our Exams](#)

I missed these exams, can I still benefit?

It is a shame you missed our exams.

The papers and mark schemes are now available on our website to use with your students. We will also be publishing a detailed results report so you can understand how students across the country performed and make comparisons to your own students' progress.

By using our papers for mock exams, you can get more in-depth information and analysis of your students' results using ResultsPlus Mock Analysis, our free online results analysis tool. You simply need to mark the mock papers and load the results at question-level into ResultsPlus to receive a rich analysis of your students' results question by question, along with a skills breakdown of their performance. The results will help you to identify your students' strengths and inform where students need more support and practice.

How are results issued to centres and students?

Through Edexcel Online and EDI and ResultsPlus.

Do these results show what grades my students will get in 2018?

No - we are not providing grade boundaries for the Year 10 Science exams.

There are a number of points to bear in mind when analysing data from mock exams, e.g. students may not yet have completed the full course of study, or some students may have sat question papers at an inappropriate tier.

Why aren't you issuing grade boundaries?

It would be misleading for us to set grade boundaries for these exams.

In summer 2018, grade boundaries for GCSE (9-1) Science will be set by all awarding bodies using statistical data about the prior attainment of the national cohort. If we were to carry out modelling based on the sub-set of students who have sat our mock exams, it would only be a best guess, and you as teachers could not rely on the information as an accurate reflection of performance, or to predict boundaries for this summer.

To learn more about the problems with grade boundary predictions, [read Ofqual's blog](#).

If you have any further questions please do get in touch at TeachingScience@pearson.com.

What does a ventile result tell me?

It is not possible to award candidate grades for this set of Edexcel year 10 exams in the same way as a GCSE. However, we understand that feedback is important and so have provided each candidate with both an absolute mark, along with an indication of relative performance compared to the rest of the overall cohort to put this raw mark into some context (a "ventile" award).

Example candidate result

RESULT TYPE	EXAM SESSION	SUBJECT	TITLE	RESULT
RESULT		1SCY	GCSE COMBINED SCI.YEAR 10	22/150 20 (two-zero)

This candidate scored 22 raw marks across the three Combined Science papers, and this overall mark has been converted into a "ventile" award - this candidate's ventile is 20. The ventile allows you to compare your candidates' results with those of all other students who sat the exam.

The table below explains what the ventile awards mean in comparison with the performance of the overall cohort. The above candidate's ventile of 20 means that their performance was better than at least 20% of the students who sat Combined Science (1SCY) in May 2017.

Separate Science candidates are awarded a ventile for each paper, and Combined Science students receive a ventile for their performance across all three components.

Ventile	Ranking
95	0-<5 (Top ranking)
90	5-<10
85	10-<15
80	15-<20
75	20-<25
70	25-<30
65	30-<35
60	35-<40
55	40-<45
50	45-<50
45	50-<55
40	55-<60
35	60-<65
30	65-<70
25	70-<75
20	75-<80
15	80-<85
10	85-<90
5	90-<95
0	95-<100

My students missed a paper, what will happen?

If a student was entered under the Combined Science code, they will be marked as absent from the paper they. If they have sat at least 1 of the 3 papers, they will receive a ventile result but it will be based on the paper marks achieved, out of a total 150 marks.

If a student was entered for the separate sciences, they will be marked as absent for that paper and no ventile result will be given.

Will it be clear how many raw marks were needed to achieve the cumulative percentage and the relating ventile?

Yes, raw marks that each ventile is based on will be available in separate report now available.

If a ventile result relates to the tier of entry, how can we use the data to establish if a student has been entered for the right tier for them?

Despite a ventile result being specific to tier of entry, you will still be able to understand your students' performance against the rest of the cohort on that paper, at that tier. A student achieving an upper result, towards 95, will likely have performed well on the questions taken.

We understand that teachers may be looking to these results to make decisions on tier entry. While we cannot comment on individual students' results, a rule of thumb might be to consider carefully whether students in the upper quartile on the Foundation tier and students in the lower quartile of Higher tier should be entered for a different tier in summer 2018.

Alongside the ventile result, we will provide your students raw paper marks and ResultsPlus will allow you to look at a student's performance against each question and against skill areas. You might want to consider how well they did on the questions of overlap between the foundation and higher tier papers; overlap questions total 9 marks per paper.

How do I get the results?

Results are now released and 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?

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 will I see in ResultsPlus?

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 at tier level, 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 centre's username and password.

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

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 were there?

Each student may sit up to three papers: separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics papers. Tiered entry was available, so students could be entered for Higher or Foundation.

Entries were made for either Combined Science or the Separate Sciences. This was so we could analyse the data from these two distinct groups separately.

Combined Science papers were the same papers as those sat by students entered for the Separate Sciences.

Which content was covered in the exams?

The Year 10 exam papers covered content from the Combined Science specification only.

Content was drawn from Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1. However, as some students started the course in September 2016, not all topics from these papers were covered. The topics covered were 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		
	Formulae, equations and hazards	
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	*
Topic 2	Motion and forces	CP1 Motion 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 were the Entry Codes?

Note – entries now closed

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)

Will there be access to scripts?

You will not be able to request hard copy scripts but PDF scripts are now available free of charge via our new [portal](#).

Will we offer enquiries about results?

We are not offering a formal EARs service but queries may be sent to teachingscience@pearson.com