

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Chemistry



Q 1. Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is a great subject to study. If you enjoy problem solving and were intrigued about what you learned at GCSE, then Chemistry is for you! Furthermore, studying Chemistry allows you to develop a huge range of skills that you can take forward to any course at University or to any workplace. Studying chemistry opens many doors!

Q 2. What grades do I need to do Chemistry?

Six GCSEs 9-4 (or A-C), two from English, Maths OR Science
Two at least grade 6 (or B)
GCSE Maths (higher tier) grade 9-6 WITH EITHER GCSE Chemistry grade 9-6 OR GCSE Combined Science grades 9,9-6,6*

Please Note: It is highly recommended that students following a combination of Maths/Biology/Chemistry/Physics A level courses have at least one GCSE grade 7 in one of these chosen subjects.

Q 3. How does studying A level compare to GCSE?

Many of the concepts studied at GCSE come back but we go into more detail. Many of the topics become quite mathematical, like rates and equilibrium, with lots of lovely problem solving. There is lots of exciting organic chemistry too, so if you were intrigued by alkanes and alkenes, get ready for ester and ketones and nitriles...to name just a few.

Q 4. What are the practicals like?

As part of studying A Level Chemistry all students complete the practical endorsement. Over the two years, you will learn many new technical skills in order to pass this. Practical are also a great way of putting into context theoretical aspects of the course. It is also a good opportunity for group work and developing your analysis skills. Practical are fun, you even get to make silver!



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Q 5. How long are the lessons?

Over the course of the week you will have 4 ½ hours of lessons per subject.

Q 6. What support can I expect if I study chemistry?

There is lots of support available in Chemistry. We have ambassadors who help with our drop-in sessions and you can ask teachers for help if you are stuck on homework or need some hints and tips on how to study effectively. You can even email teachers if you need help with anything!

Q 7. Are there lots of homework and tests?

We use regular homework as a way of allowing students to check their progress. Most of the homework questions are past exam questions so this is all good preparation for the exams. Similarly, end of topic tests and practice assessments allow students and their teachers to see the progress they are making. We give excellent feedback so that students know they are supported and are making progress. We recommend students do at least five or six hours a week of independent study for Chemistry. We will give you lots of brilliant advice, when you start, so that you are revising actively and effectively.

Q 8. Do I need to study chemistry to do Medicine?

Many universities require you to have studied A level Chemistry. We would advise students to study chemistry. You will get more advice when you enrol at Loreto College.

Q 9. What other subjects do students normally choose alongside Chemistry?

Popular combinations include...Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, Physics, English, History, Business Studies and languages.

