

Trial Exam Preparation October 2025

Year 11 Aims 2025-26



Achieve 65% Grade 5+ in Maths and English (57%) – 125 students



Achieve 80% Grade 4+ in Maths and English (74%) – 145 students



All Year 11 students have 94% attendance or above



Year 11 students have no visits to the reflection room for behaviour



Students are successful in Trial Exams – Preparation each evening 20/30 mins

Year 11 Trial Exams October 2025



All exams will take place in the sports hall or access arrangement room.

Week 1					
Date	Monday 6 th October	Tuesday 7 th October	Wednesday 8 th October	Thursday 9 th October	Friday 10 th October
Exams	8.45am Maths Paper 1 (1hr30m)	Normal Lessons	10am Science - Biology (1hr15m / 1hr45m)	9am English Language C2 (2hrs)	9am Maths Paper 2 (1hr30m)
Enrichment	Science	MFL	Maths / History	English / Geography	History / MFL

Week 2					
Date	Monday 13 th October	Tuesday 14 th October	Wednesday 15 th October	Thursday 16 th October	Friday 17 th October
Exams	8.45am Maths Paper 3 (1hr30m)	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
Enrichment	Science	MFL	Maths / History	English / Geography	History / MFL

Pre-trial exam boosters will take place before each English and Maths exam at 8am in the dining room

Year 11 Trial Exam content



Biology Paper 2 content should be the focus for Science. Revision guides, SPARX, Physics and Maths Tutor for downloading past papers



English Language C2 Paper. WTM practices and revision information from your class teacher, C2 language reading papers



Maths, you need to be completing SPARX homework and mathswatch set tasks which have targeted revision content set up for each paper

Year 11 Barriers 2025-26



Non-attendance and poor punctuality at School (91.1% 61 students below 94% - 10% late detentions [5 x late = PROM POSSIBLE LIST])



Poor engagement in lessons (43 C4 Behaviour – visits to reflection room for non-attendance)



Lack of effort in Trial Exams, including preparation (16 C4 Homework)



Non-attendance at Enrichment sessions (70% largest absence Maths – excluding transport issues)



Excuses

Students who come to school do better than students who don't.

Student attendance	Probability of students achieving 5 good GCSEs
93.5% and above	74%
92 – 93%	60%
88% and below	26%

31 children did not pass their English Language GCSE last year.

75% of these students had less than 95% attendance.

We got 10 grade 9s – ALL of them had attendance over 95%

A real Scalby example:

Student A

Same primary school, same data on entry

SATs reading 104, maths 102

97% attendance

English Language and Maths – 6
Good passes in English Literature, Science, History, French, Drama

Next steps: A Levels at Sixth Form

Student B

Same primary school, same data on entry

SATs reading 104, maths 102

84% attendance

English Language and Maths – 3
Standard passes in iMedia and Art.

Next steps: Resits in English and Maths before being able to take the courses they want.

Attendance: the magic 95%

We always aim for attendance above 95% for all our students.

What does that actually look like?

Attendance	Days absent	Lessons missed
95%	9.5	48
90%	19	95

The basic premise is:
If it wouldn't keep you off work, it shouldn't keep them off school.



What does good study look like at home?



Dedicated space that is quiet and has all my resources – not my room if possible



Away from devices and distractions - FOMO



Have a plan for the week – focus on the nearest exams



Little and often – something everyday, not all-day! Don't work too late!



Use study cards, past questions and other revision techniques shown by your class teachers - individualised



Get a good night's sleep and a balanced diet (including hydration)

Building emotional resilience and supporting emotional wellbeing in Year 11



Encourage routines

Protect sleep

Physical activity – now is not the time to quit sport or clubs

Create social space/time and study space/time

[Exam Stress | How To Deal with Exam Stress | YoungMinds](#)

SEN: Exam Access Arrangements

Access Arrangements allow candidates/learners with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment without changing the demands of the assessment. For example, readers, scribes and Braille question papers. In this way Awarding Bodies will comply with the duty of the Equality Act 2010 to make “reasonable adjustments”.

School work in line with the regulations laid down by Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)

The Process

- A parent or teacher raises a concern that a student may need exam access arrangements.
- Or a diagnosis may be given to the student that recommends exam access arrangements.
- The SEND team and assessor, gathers evidence from teachers. The assessor will undertake assessments which check processing speed, reading, and handwriting speed. The result of these assessment and all other evidence will be written into an application for exam access arrangements if they meet the criteria.
- This must be approved by the JCQ before exam access arrangements are granted.
- All record are to be held by the school. The school is subject to spot checks on record keeping and a certificate issued. If records are not correct the certificate is not granted, and this would have direct impact upon the school being able to conduct exams.



Joint Council for
Qualifications ^{CIC}



- If an external assessor diagnoses a learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia, dyscalculia), the report can only be used as evidence towards an application for access arrangements.

- A medical consultant or psychiatrist are responsible for providing a formal diagnosis. They are not responsible for decisions about access arrangements. Their report can be used as evidence to support an application for exam access arrangements.

- The school or college must decide which access arrangements a student has for their exams.

- Teachers must give evidence to show that an access arrangement is needed. The school or college will record how effective the arrangement is in the classroom, in internal tests or in mock exams. This is described as “a way of working”.

The story so far..

- The exam assessor is gathering evidence, assessing students and making applications to the JCQ.

- Deadline for all application is 5th January 2026**



Joint Council for Qualifications CIC



Preparation messages from the
CORE – English Language C2

English: upcoming trial exam

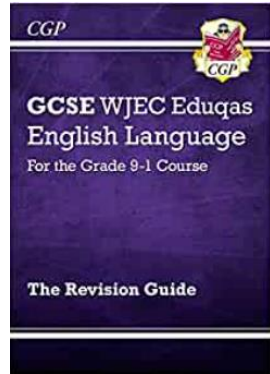


Thursday 9th October - 9am

GCSE English Language - Component Two (2 hours) - this is the non-fiction paper

1 hour reading paper - this consists of two texts (one from the 21st Century and one from the 19th Century) connected by a similar topic. There are 6 questions to answer in the hour.

1 hour writing paper - two 30-minute transactional writing tasks, e.g. a formal letter, speech or article.

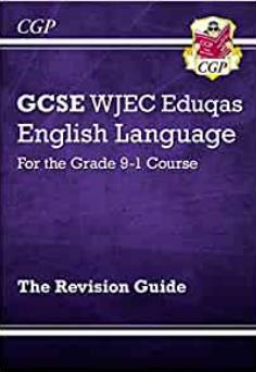


How have we prepared?

We have completed three reading papers (one in the Hall as a walk-through mock). We will complete a fourth paper next week as another WTM in the Hall.

We've learnt to write **formal letters, articles** and next week, we will learn how to write a **speech**.

English: key information



What additional support can my child access at school?

Enrichment: If your child has been selected for English enrichment, they will have two Thursdays (including today) after school, focused on transactional writing skills.

Mentor time: Students may be in a mentor group that offers extra English support throughout the week. The week before the exam will have a focus on technical accuracy in writing.

How can I support my child at home?

- Support them to engage with the **revision homework** set by their teacher. A full **C2 paper** has been given to your child this week to complete over the next two weeks - this needs to be completed by **Tues 7th Oct**.
- Encourage your child to look at transactional writing in the real world, such as, **newspaper and magazine articles in print or online, famous speeches or formal letters/emails** you may have written or received, if appropriate. It is particularly useful to discuss the **purpose and audience** of a piece of writing and what **tone and vocabulary** the writer has chosen.

Preparation messages from the CORE – Mathematics



Mathematics: upcoming trial exams

Monday 6th October

GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 Non-calculator (1.5 hours)

Friday 10th October

GCSE Mathematics Paper 2 Calculator (1.5 hours)

Monday 13th October

GCSE Mathematics Paper 3 Calculator (1.5 hours)





Scalby School Mathematics Department

We are fully staffed with 8 mathematics specialists



How does my child revise for maths?

Do maths questions.



Casio fx-83GT-CW



How can I support my child at home?

- Check that they have a scientific calculator, black pen, pencils, sharpener, eraser, transparent ruler, compasses, protractor.
- Have they got a space to study without distractions?
- Support them to engage with their homework.
- Encourage them to use **Mathswatch!**





What support is my child getting at school?

The Drill: Retrieval questions at the start of every lesson

Homework: Revision questions on Mathswatch.

This homework is self-marking.

Students can have as many attempts at each question as they like.

Each question has a tutorial video.

Login : johsmi@scalbyschool

Password: scalby





What additional support does my child access at school?

Enrichment: 2.30pm every Wednesday after school, focussing on key students. This is an extra hour -free of charge.

Mentor time: Your son/daughter may have been selected for extra maths support at mentor time.

Maths therapy: Students may also have been selected for additional support session during their option time.



Mathematics Breakfast and Exam Assemblies

Monday 6th October

From 8am in the dining hall. The maths teachers will be there with last minute revision resources and free toast. Exam assembly in the main Hall at 8.25am.

Friday 10th October - same

Monday 13th October - same



How can I find a private tutor?

We have contacts - just ask.



Mathematics: upcoming trial exams

Monday 6th October

GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 Non-calculator (1.5 hours)

Friday 10th October

GCSE Mathematics Paper 2 Calculator (1.5 hours)

Monday 13th October

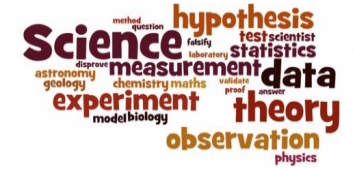
GCSE Mathematics Paper 3 Calculator (1.5 hours)



Preparation messages from the CORE – Science

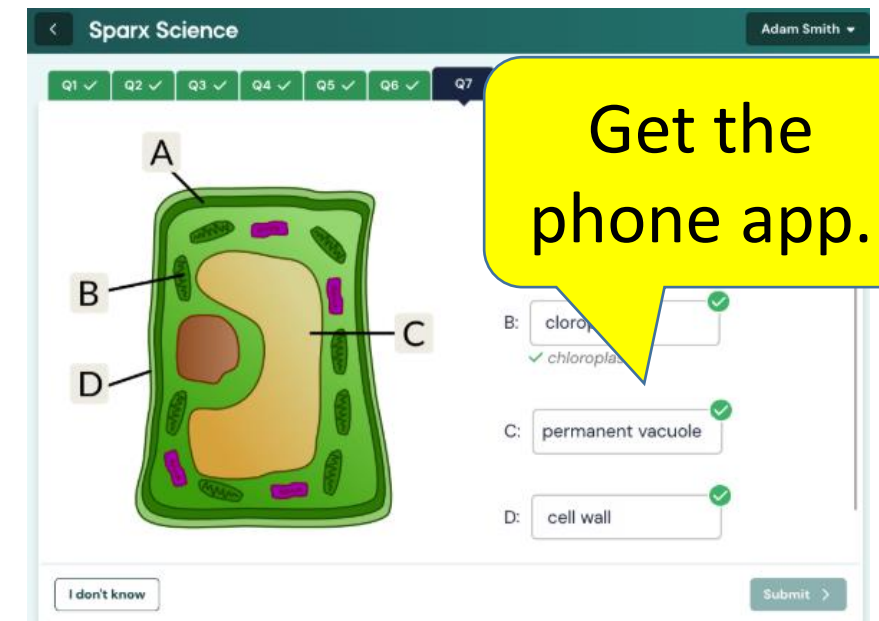
Top 5 Tips for Success in Science

1. Diagnose – work out where your gaps are.



- Use SPARX to support your learning.
- Your teachers will set work for that week's lessons AND revision topics to guide you towards the next exams.
- Use the IL (independent learning) tool and find out what you can't do very well and work on key areas

Sparx Science



Example questions:

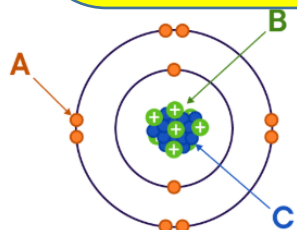
Easy

Medium

Hard

Students should aim to achieve 100% of their SPARX homework every week.

Use the flashcards and Attempt the IL challenge!



Here is a diagram of an atom.

Name the subatomic particle shown by each label.

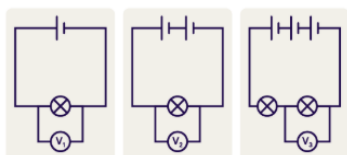
A: B: C:

Example questions:

Easy

Medium

Hard



These circuits are all built using different numbers of cells which each provide 2V of potential difference.

The bulbs are identical

a) Identify which voltmeter will give the highest reading.

b) Calculate the reading on this voltmeter.

 V

Name	Completion for	All subjects	Working time	Completion day	Answers	IL Challenge	Previous completion w2	Previous completion w3
Fr	0%		0h 0m	Not started	View >	0%	0%	✓
Zo	4%		0h 1m	Incomplete	View >	0%	✓	✓
	75%		0h 20m	Incomplete	View >	0%	0%	93%
	✓		1h 19m	3 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		1h 12m	5 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 24m	2 days early	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		0h 22m	6 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		1h 19m	Hand-in day	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 31m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 24m	1 day early	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		1h 14m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 13m	3 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 22m	Hand-in day	View >	0%	49%	97%
	✓		0h 41m	2 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 50m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 25m	2 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 25m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 29m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 24m	1 day early	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		0h 58m	1 day early	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		0h 59m	Hand-in day	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 56m	2 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 28m	5 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 25m	2 days early	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		0h 41m	Hand-in day	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		0h 27m	3 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 38m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 25m	2 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 34m	6 days early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 38m	1 day early	View >	0%	✓	✓
	✓		0h 41m	Hand-in day	View >	0%	0%	✓
	✓		0h 25m	1 day early	View >	0%	0%	0%
	✓		0h 40m	6 days early	View >	100% ✓	✓	✓

Use the GCSE Pod. Try the '10 things' sheets. These lists will soon uncover what you can and cannot do in Science. A great first step in filling the gaps

10 Things to Do to Prepare for...

GCSE Biology

Commissioned by GCSEPod.

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April 2020

gcsepod
education on demand

2. Cellular respiration

- Can you compare aerobic and anaerobic respiration (in humans and microbes) and summarise both using word equations? This needs to include the reactants and products and energy implications for the organism. Learn the word equations.

3. Nutrition and digestion

- Can you name the components of a healthy human diet? Can you describe why each component is needed and give sources of them in our food? Summarise this in a table.
- You will need to know the parts of the digestive system and the ways in which it is adapted to help digest and absorb food. This should include the role of enzymes and of bacteria in the gut.
- Are you able to calculate energy requirements of different diets, for example a pregnant woman, an athlete, and an office worker? Can you relate imbalances in the diet to dietary diseases such as deficiency and obesity?
- Can you describe how a green plant gets the nutrients it needs from the soil and makes carbohydrates in its leaves?

4. Photosynthesis, including the adaptations of a leaf

- Learn the word equation that summarises photosynthesis. Can you relate the structure of the leaf to the requirements for photosynthesis? Practise drawing a section through a leaf and labelling it, identifying each feature in relation to its contribution to photosynthesis.
- Learn the role of photosynthesis in the carbon cycle and practise drawing a simple version of the carbon cycle to show the relationship between photosynthesis and the other processes that contribute to carbon stores and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



Biology



Chemistry

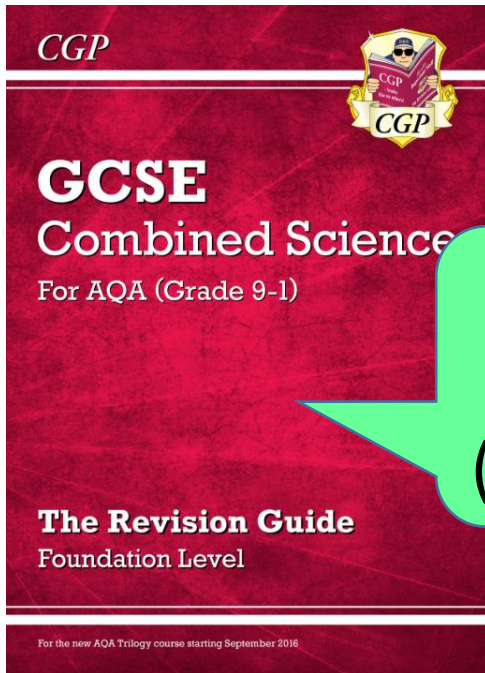


Physics

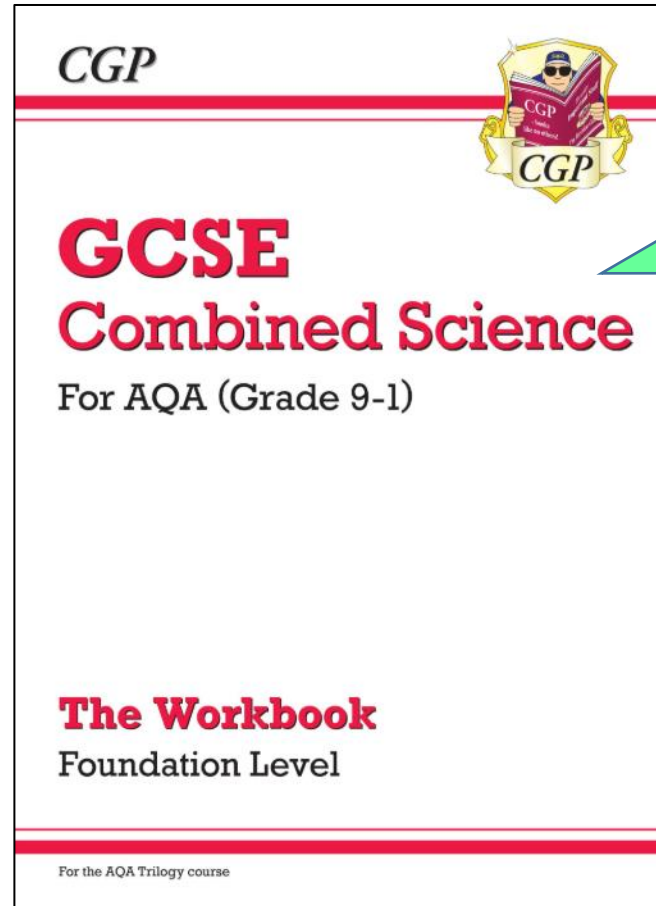


Top 5 Tips for Success in Science

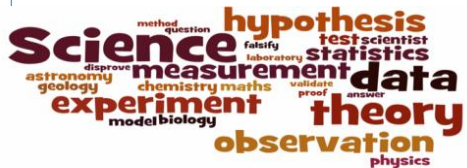
2. Fill the Gaps - the paper way.



Use revision guides
(coming soon)

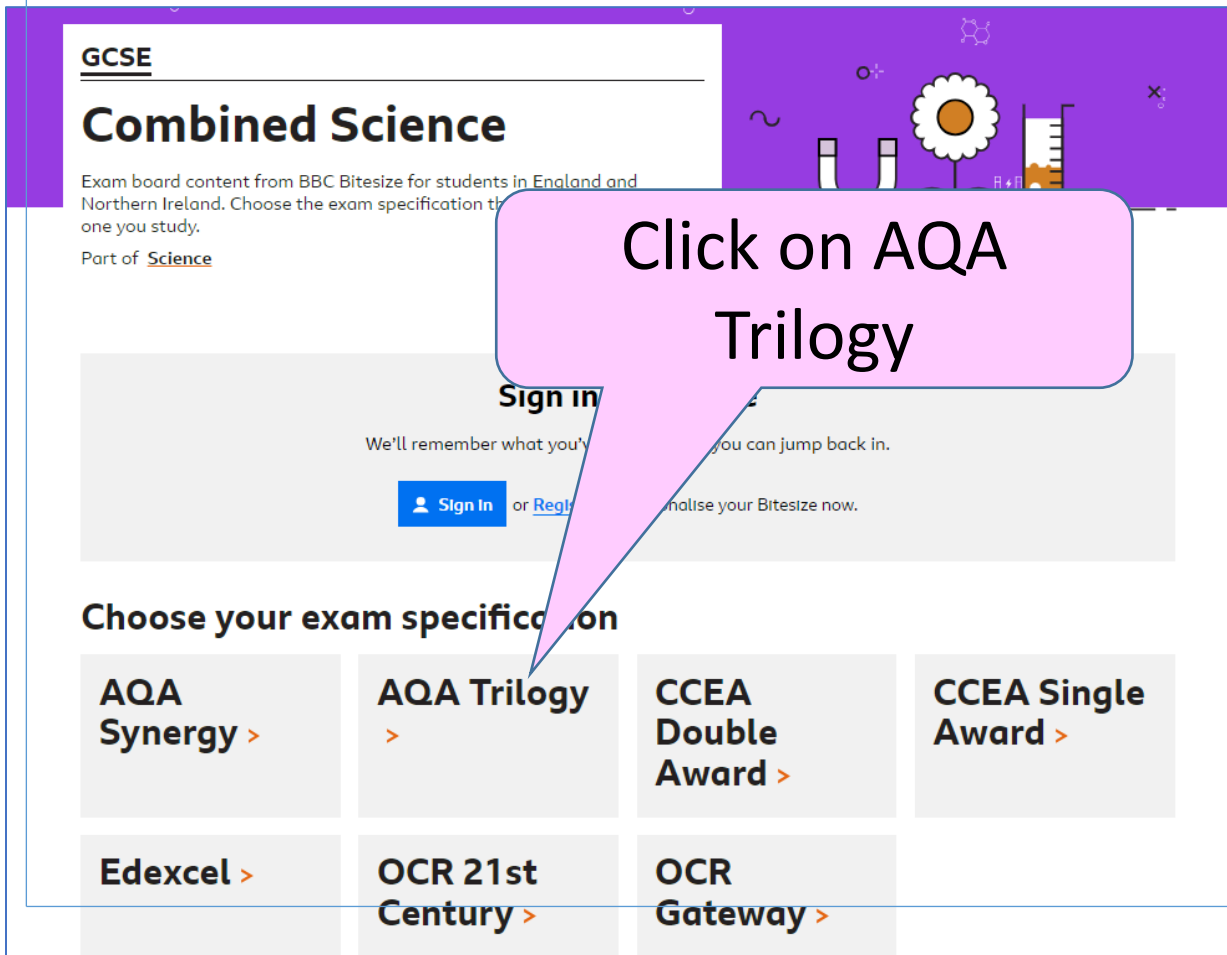


The CGP website also has workbooks to purchase.



Top 5 Tips for Success in Science

3. Fill the Gaps - the Bitesize way.



GCSE

Combined Science

Exam board content from BBC Bitesize for students in England and Northern Ireland. Choose the exam specification that you study.

Part of [Science](#)

Sign in

We'll remember what you've done so you can jump back in.

[Sign In](#) or [Register](#) to personalise your Bitesize now.

Choose your exam specification

AQA Synergy >	AQA Trilogy >	CCEA Double Award >	CCEA Single Award >
Edexcel >	OCR 21st Century >	OCR Gateway >	

Click on AQA Trilogy

Topics

Podcasts >

Exam practice >

Biology (Combined Science) >

[Cell biology](#)

[Organisation](#)

[Infection and response](#)

[Bioenergetics](#)

[Homeostasis and response](#)

[Inheritance, variation and evolution](#)

[Ecology](#)

[Practical skills](#)

The topic to choose first should be your weakest.

Top 5 Tips for Success in Science

WWW.COGNITO.ORG

4. Fill the Gaps - the Cognito way.

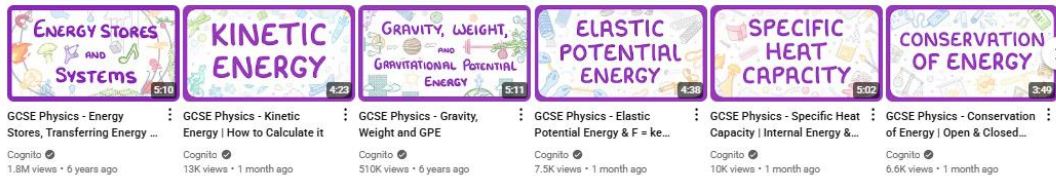
GCSE Biology (9-1) ▶ Play all

Video lessons teaching the majority of triple and combined GCSE biology content.



GCSE Physics (9-1) ▶ Play all

Videos teaching the majority of triple and combined GCSE physics content.



GCSE Chemistry (9-1) ▶ Play all

Videos teaching the majority of triple and combined GCSE chemistry content.



All videos are on
YouTube.

Each Science is broken
down into topics and each
topic into a 3 or 4min
videos

Top 5 Tips for Success in Science

5. Prepare – Once you have started to fill the gaps.

Turn up to Intervention!

All students aiming for the critical good pass (55) have been invited and moany more come too.

Intervention Every
Monday at 2.30

- Trial Exams (1hr15 or 1h45).
- October sees the Biology Paper 2
 - End of December all 3 full papers.
- Start uncovering and then addressing your weaker areas NOW.

Top 5 Tips for Success in Science

Questions your parents/carers and teachers will ask.

Are you keeping up with SPARX Science every week?

Do you know your weakest areas?

Have you started looking back at the Early units?

Are you concentrating during the precious lesson time we have and keeping up with the new units?

Are you attending Intervention and using bitesize/Cognito to help you plug those gaps?



Year 11 Important dates Sept-Dec 2025



Thursday 25th September – Parents Exam Preparation Meeting 6pm



Next WTM 30th September



Monday 6th October – start of the Core Trial examinations



Wednesday 8th October – RAG meeting for Maths, English and Science



Monday 24th November – Start of Ebacc Trial examinations



Friday 19th December – Christmas Holiday

Year 11 Parents Preparation Evening



Thank you for coming...