



Perins GCSE Science

Examination Dates

Perins students take the OCR Gateway GCSE papers, for both Combined Science (CS) and Separate Science (SS) courses. Here are the details for next summer's papers:

Paper	Date	Duration	Marks
Biology Paper 1	Tue 13 th May (pm)	CS: 1hr 10mins / SS: 1hr 45mins	CS: 60 / SS: 90
Chemistry Paper 1	Mon 19 th May (am)	CS: 1hr 10mins / SS: 1hr 45mins	CS: 60 / SS: 90
Physics Paper 1	Thur 22 nd May (am)	CS: 1hr 10mins / SS: 1hr 45mins	CS: 60 / SS: 90
Biology Paper 2	Mon 9 th June (am)	CS: 1hr 10mins / SS: 1hr 45mins	CS: 60 / SS: 90
Chemistry Paper 2	Fri 13 th June (am)	CS: 1hr 10mins / SS: 1hr 45mins	CS: 60 / SS: 90
Physics Paper 2	Mon 16 th June (am)	CS: 1hr 10mins / SS: 1hr 45mins	CS: 60 / SS: 90

Tiers of entry* for Combined Sciences

Teachers use assessment data and professional judgement to determine the tier of entry for each student. Whilst this is finalised in February students should be familiar with their tier of entry. Please note that students get a GCSE Combined Science certificate – the tier of entry is not mentioned on their qualification. Students sitting a Foundation tier paper cannot achieve more than a grade 5-5. However, students sitting a Higher tier paper cannot achieve less than a 4-4, scoring below this grades 'U'. As a 'U' looks the same on any certificate, tier decisions are taken very seriously by the school for each student to achieve a grade from 1-1 through to 9-9.

*At Perins, Separate Science students sit Higher tier only.

Calculators in Science Exams

Unlike GCSE Maths, a calculator can be used in every science paper. Its important students have their own equipment AND practice using it in class throughout the year.

We would like to stress that students need a **modern scientific calculator** and should practice using it. Ultimately students who know how their specific calculator functions will do better in exams.

Revision guides

We recommend the **CGP Science OCR Gateway Revision Guides**. We take orders for CGP resources at the start of the year, but they are available online and in stores (WHSmiths, Waterstones).

For students on the Separate Science course: there are three different revision guides (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

For Combined Science students: there is one revision guide with two options for tier labelled on the cover

(Higher/Foundation). **Please select the correct revision guide(s) as content varies between SS and CS courses.**

Revision websites

It is important to break down the bulky and broad science GCSE content by chunking revision, with a focus on past-paper questions.

Resources	Past Papers
Seneca Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">Premium account paid by schoolWhole course accessible at any time BBC Bitesize <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brief notes, quizzes, podcasts, etc.Chunks revision into bitesize bits! Cognito <ul style="list-style-type: none">Youtube channel – breakdown videosSome students use their website	OCR Gateway <ul style="list-style-type: none">Using the correct search term brings up all past papers'OCR Gateway 9-1 Combined Science past papers'For SepSci: 'OCR Gateway 9-1 Biology past papers'Replace <i>Biology</i> with each discipline

Revision at school

Generally, the curriculum content is completed by February half term. Paper 2 content is mock assessed near March/April. Lessons will then focus more on exam-prep, covering topics from previous years with an emphasis on answering exam-style questions.

We also offer a tutor time drop-in this year (for specific questions) and afterschool revision sessions.

As of October 2024 these are as follows:

Tuesday Tutor time drop-in (13:50 – 14:10) N4
Tuesday after-school (15:30 – 16:15) N1* (*subject to change)