

Chemistry A Level at TWGGS

FAQs

Are strong maths skills required to take A Level Chemistry?

-or-

How useful would it be to take A Level Maths to aid success in A Level Chemistry?

A firm grasp of maths is helpful, but most A Level Maths goes way beyond what is necessary at A Level Chemistry. The maths skills needed for most A Level Chemistry problems are relatively basic. Some maths skills are, of course, required, but they do not usually go beyond that seen at GCSE Level. More difficult maths problems that arise in A Level Chemistry are usually accompanied by a data booklet with formulae and constants on the front page, reducing the need to memorise the necessary equations.

How many chemistry pupils also take Biology A Level?

-or-

Do students who don't take Biology A Level struggle with some concepts in Chemistry?

When canvassing A Level Chemistry classes, usually around 75% of the pupils also take Biology. However, we take the approach to teach as if none of our pupils take Biology A Level. While some concepts learned in Biology overlap with those of Chemistry, the terminology and depth of understanding differs between each subject and we feel it is absolutely necessary to approach each concept with fresh eyes, regardless of whether pupils have seen it before in another subject. This also ensures that pupils who do not take Biology are not at a disadvantage to those who have.

What GCSE grades are expected to be able to enter Chemistry A Level at TWGGS?

-or-

Do pupils get in with a grade 6?

We normally accept grades 7-9. We would hope for pupils to achieve at least a moderate to high grade 7 if they want to do well at A Level Chemistry. A low grade 7 infers answering only 60% of the GCSE examinations questions correctly, which is a shaky foundation for the start of the A Level Chemistry course.

Pupils with a grade 6 in the GCSE chemistry examinations have statistically done very poorly when they have been allowed to enter the A Level course, and are not typically allowed to take the course.

What grades do most pupils achieve at A Level Chemistry?

We are proud of our results at A Level Chemistry. Results over the last 5 year are roughly as follows. For more information on our results, please access them through the school website.

A*/A grades ~55%

A*/C grades ~90%

B grades ~25%

How many spaces are on the course?

We usually field 2 classes with just under 20 pupils in each class. Spaces are not necessarily limited. In the past, if pupil uptake has been high enough, 3 classes were fielded.