

## Physics FAQs

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- Are there any differences in the content between AS and A Level Physics in Lower Sixth?  
*The content covered in Year 1 of Physics A Level is the same as that covered for the AS course. This allows us to teach AS and A Level candidates together and may give students the option to switch between the options, depending on the other subjects being studied.*
- Is the AS only one year?  
*Yes the AS level course is covered by the end of the Lower Sixth year. This allows students taking this route to focus on their three full A Levels in the Upper Sixth.*
- How large are the classes?  
*This is difficult to answer as it depends on the number of people who opt to do Physics each year. There is currently one Physics group in Lower Sixth with over twenty students, whereas there are two smaller classes in Upper Sixth.*
- Who teaches A Level?  
*Each sixth form class is co-taught by two of the three Physics teachers. Allocation of teachers to classes for next year is not decided this early.*
- Do I have to do AS or A Level Maths to do Physics?  
*While there is a crossover between the two subject it is not required that you also study Maths to take Physics A Level. However most University Physics and Engineering courses will require an A Level in Maths.*
- What % of the exam papers are calculations?  
*40% of all marks in assessments for physics will require the use of mathematical skills. These will be at least at the standard of a higher tier GCSE maths. 15% of all marks are based the core practicals.*
- Is Physics hard?  
*Any A Level is a step up from GCSE. How difficult someone will find Physics A Level will differ from person to person. Some concepts covered are abstract and tricky initially to fully understand, however the work load is generally less than most essay subjects. Revision in Physics is generally fairly straightforward too, as working through past paper questions can quickly get you used to typical questions asked in examinations.*