

What is the course about?

Applied Science AAQ is a Level 3 qualification (equivalent to one A Level) that focuses on the application of biology, chemistry, and physics. This course offers students opportunities to develop professional and practical skills through conducting experiments and research, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding of the biological, chemical and physical principles that underpin these skills. Students will learn, develop and practise laboratory techniques while gaining an understanding of the different types of scientific industries and settings.

This course combines external exams with internal coursework and prepares students for higher education or careers in science-related sectors, such as nursing, allied health, or research.

Course content

A broad overview of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, focusing on their real-world applications and investigative elements. There is an emphasis on practical skills, data collection, analysis, and the use of scientific instruments, and a vocational approach with a more hands-on and vocational style of learning compared to traditional A Levels.

The course consists of five units:

- Fundamentals of science
- Science in society
- Investigating science
- Analytical techniques in chemistry
- Forensic biology

Assessment

Fundamentals of Science and Science in Society are externally assessed through exams. The remainder of the extended certificate is internally assessed assignments based on research and practical work.

Career pathways

The course equips students with the skills and knowledge to progress to university courses in fields like psychology, forensics, biological sciences, biomedicine and health.

Employment opportunities: nursing (or allied health professions), food science, scientist, medical technician, paramedic, nurse, food technologist, or forensic scientist.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science or Triple Biology, Chemistry and Physics