APPLIED SCIENCE

LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Entry Requirements: Two grade 5s in GCSE Sciences
Exam board: AQA
Full Subject Specification: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-1775-SP-2016.PDF

Why study Applied Science:

This is a substantial vocational qualification that provides a broad understanding of applied science. The course is ideal for students who have an interest in the science subjects but would like an alternative to the traditional science A-levels. The course is 50% portfolio based and 50% written examination.

Studying this qualification will enable learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific principles, as well as those scientific practical skills recognised by higher education institutions and employers to be most important. The qualification also offers learners an opportunity to develop transferable skills such as problem solving, research and communication as part of their applied learning.

Subject Specification Outline:

The course is comprised of 5 mandatory units:
- Key concepts in science
- Applied experimental techniques
- Science in the modern world
- The human body
- Investigating science

Followed by an optional unit, with choice from:
- Microbiology
- Medical physics
- Organic chemistry

Progress Assessment:

The first three units must be passed before progressing on to the remaining units. The units with written examinations will include at least one "mock" examination before the external examination. Portfolio work is ongoing through most of the course with regular submission deadlines.

Final Exam Format:

Each unit is worth 16.6% of the qualification. There are three units assessed by external written examinations (one with pre-release material) and the remainder of the course is portfolio based. Each unit has one re-sit opportunity. All units must be passed to gain the qualification.

Self Study Requirements:

The qualification is very learner driven and all portfolio work should be the independent work of the student. It is expected that some portfolio work will need to be completed outside of lessons, including independent research. Tasks will also be set to support the units assessed by written examination.

Progression Pathways:

This qualification prepares learners to take up employment in the applied science sector, either directly after achieving the qualification or via higher education. It is supported by a range of universities, and taken alongside other qualifications it can fulfil the entry requirements for a number of science-related higher education courses, including biomedical, forensic and sports science, as well as nursing. It is worth the same number of UCAS points as 1 A-level.