

Level 3 Science Courses

At Southam College



Introduction from Jim Eltringham, Head of Science, Southam College

- ▶ What I love about Science at this level is the sheer level of detail which you simply haven't got time for at GCSE.
- ▶ If you are the sort of person who enjoyed Science at GCSE and always wanted to go a bit further, then you should seriously think about Science courses at Level 3.

We offer 4 different Level 3 Science courses at Southam.

There are traditional separate A levels in Biology, chemistry and physics, as well as a Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science.

The A levels are all OCR A Levels, 2 year courses with an AS level in Year 12.

- ▶ OCR Science A-Levels consist of taught lessons leading to 3 exams at the end of Year 13.
- ▶ Two are 135 minutes long, one is 90 minutes. They assess content from Years 12+13.

Compulsory Practical Work

- ▶ There is no coursework, however there is a practical endorsement, which requires you to have done a minimum of 12 'PAGs' (Practical Activity Groups), which are similar to the Required Practicals at GCSE, albeit bigger.

- ▶ If you want your Science A level to have the much coveted practical endorsement, you have to complete the 12 PAGs to a good standard.

- ▶ There are also questions in the exams requiring a good working knowledge of the practical work, so we expect all students to do the PAGs.
- ▶ So far no-one has failed the practical endorsement.

Entry Requirements

- ▶ For all 3 Science A Levels, we normally require GCSE Grade 7 in the Separate Science itself, plus Grade 6 in the other Sciences and Maths.
- ▶ Equally acceptable is Grade 7,7 in Combined Science, along with Grade 6 in maths.

BTEC Applied Science Level 3

- ▶ If you want to study the Sciences at Level 3 without specialising in one Science subject, we offer BTEC Applied Science Level 3 which also runs over 2 years.

Assessment

- ▶ BTEC Level 3 Applied Science is assessed by both internal and external assessment, 50% of each.
- ▶ All Components have to be passed in order to award a grade overall.

Entry Requirements

- ▶ The entry requirements for BTEC Applied Science are 4 in Sciences and 4 in Maths.

Achievement and Where next

- ▶ We have an excellent track record for achievement in the Sciences at Level 3.
- ▶ In previous years our former students have used their Level 3 Science qualifications to follow related careers, including:

- ▶ Medicine
- ▶ Veterinary Science
- ▶ Chemical Engineering
- ▶ Mechanical Engineering
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Physiotherapy
- ▶ Midwifery
- ▶ Paramedic Science

- ▶ Many of our former students have taken degrees in the pure Sciences at most of the major universities.
- ▶ Don't forget that due to their rigour and the unique skill set developed, Level 3 Science qualifications are a strong and sought after springboard for many other careers which do not directly use your scientific knowledge.

If you are interested in taking a Level 3 Science qualification, Southam College is the place for you, and we'd love to hear from you.

Jim Eltringham
Head of Science
Southam College

Want to know more?

- ▶ For more information, look out for the separate presentations from each of the Science Course Leaders.