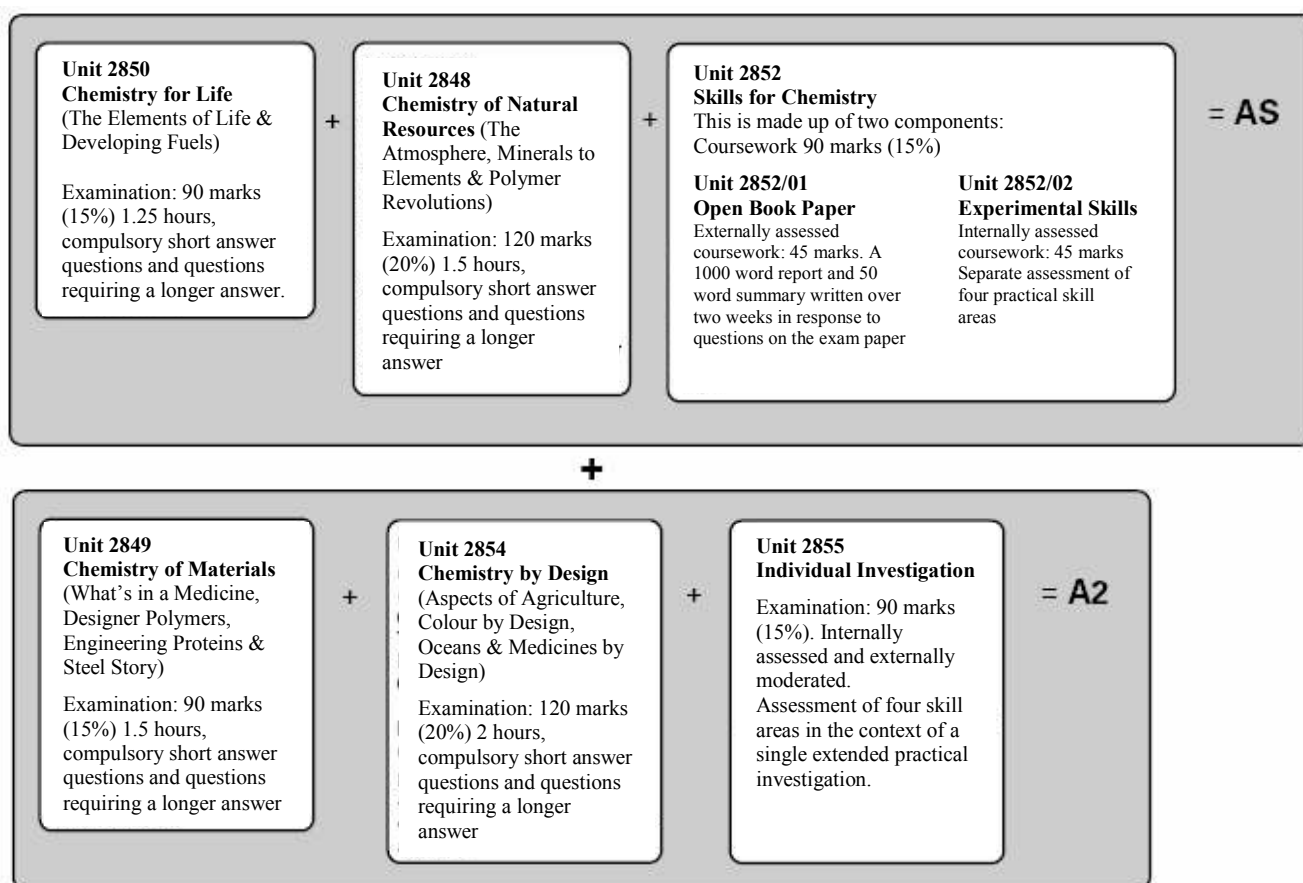


Salters Chemistry (OCR)

Course Outline

The Salters Advanced Chemistry course is divided into thirteen teaching sections, six in AS and seven in A2. A visit to a chemical industry is also part of the course. A range of materials supports each section. These are in three parts:

- A 'Storyline' provides the setting within which the chemistry and skills are developed,
- The 'Chemical Ideas' provide the underlying chemical principles, and
- 'Activities' provide practical work as well as many other types of activities, including research exercises, group discussions applications of IT, etc.



Assessment

The first AS module is assessed in January of Year 12* and the second in June of Year 12.

The coursework section consists of two parts:

- Investigation skills – pupils plan and carry out an investigation. Practical skills are assessed during lessons and write-ups are marked to board criteria and sent to external moderators.
- Open book assessment (April/May of Year 12). Pupils are given scientific articles and are asked to write an 800 – 1000 word report. This is marked externally. Pupils often find this skill difficult and thorough preparation is given.

* If appropriate some pupils will not be entered for the first module in the January exam period to allow them more time to become familiar and comfortable with the chemical concepts.

The first A2 module is assessed by examination in January of Year 13 and the second by examination in June of Year 13. A2 coursework is an independent project that consists of 4 weeks practical work and is then written up using appropriate research. This is marked in school and then moderated externally.

Support and Mentoring

The chemistry department aim to provide the students with the support they need to achieve their best. As part of this we do the following:

- Give the pupils a printed set of learning objectives for each unit of study.
- Set regular progress tests to monitor their understanding of new ideas.
- Meet with each student regularly to discuss their progress across all areas of the course and agree goals.
- Maintain a record with each student that tracks test marks, goals and target grades.
- Provide extra support as relevant for students whose performance falls below their target grades.
- Make a revision guide, designed specifically for the course, available to the students. (Cost £6 for each AS and A2)
- Make available numerous past exam papers with mark schemes for each of the 4 modules.

The Model AS/A2 Chemistry student:

- Is committed to succeeding in their studies.
 - Is organised – brings correct books to lessons and files all work carefully.
 - Attends all lessons and participates fully in learning.
 - Completes all work set to the best of their ability.
 - Meets deadlines.
 - Seeks help from staff outside of lesson time whenever necessary.
 - Reads around the subject and watches relevant TV documentaries.
 - Quickly becomes an independent and self motivated learner.
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How can you help?

- Ask them about their chemistry lessons.
 - Encourage the reading of scientific literature in newspapers and magazines.
 - Read their coursework – it doesn't matter if you don't understand the chemistry; just check the grammatical structure and flow.
 - Help them manage their time effectively.
 - Encourage them to talk to their teachers if they don't understand something.
 - Contact their teacher if you have any concerns.
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Other Information

Our department has a history of excellent results. We have a 99% pass rate at both A2 and AS, with the majority of pupils achieving a grade C or above. A level Chemistry is an excellent qualification which allows students to access a wide variety of higher education courses and careers.

The year 12 teachers are Dr. J. Kissick, Mrs. S. Thurlow, Mr. J Doig and Mr. J. Dunwell. Please contact Dr. Kissick (Leader of Chemistry Courses) if any further information is required.

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