Single Award Science

Any student opting to take Single Award science will not receive an education that has a balanced mix of the humanities and science. They will be restricting the choices that they are able to make later as studying this little science is unlikely to lead to any career that has any science element, no matter how small, and it will not adequately prepare students to take science 'A' levels.

In addition Single Award science is not a course that is suited to the lower ability pupil. Rather it should be seen as an option for those students who are exceptionally gifted in another area, languages perhaps, and who wish to devote most of their time to those other subjects.

The Association for Science Education

Originated by the Association for Science Education
www.ase.org.uk

Choosing Science at 14

PLANET SCIENCE
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Why study science?

A curriculum that incorporates science is one that provides a balanced education and a rounded view of the world.

Studying science teaches students to think in a logical and precise fashion, and helps them to communicate with clarity and precision, as well as providing the intellectual apparatus to make informed and reasoned judgements on the issues of the day, long after they have left school.

It enables students to grow into adults with an understanding of the principles that our technologically based world is founded upon. It allows them to assess whether the risks posed in an increasingly scientific society are acceptable as well as enhancing their understanding of inventions and technological developments.

Studying science also gives students the confidence to tackle practical problems and allows them to become proficient at working as part of a team.

Those who study it learn to interpret data, a valuable asset in a world awash with information and statistics, and acquire the practical skills of observation and measurement that are readily translated into other areas of life and work.

Choosing to study science is an essential first step to many careers

Taking science not only leads on to a great variety of science based careers – anything from a vet to a dentist – but it's also a vital part of many other jobs.

Even jobs that appear unrelated to science often contain elements of it, and require knowledge or skills conferred in the courses, or an understanding of scientific processes. If your child hopes to be a pilot or a photographer, an electrician or an engineer, they'll need to choose at least double science at Key Stage 4.

In addition to providing the basis for a good career, studying science is a well-established and respected means of acquiring the right credentials to pursue further studies at university or in further education.

How much science is appropriate?

Deciding which courses to take at Key Stage 4 is an important decision in the life of your child. Making the right choices now will open up opportunities for them in the future and enable them to benefit from a broad and thorough education.

Double Award Science

This choice provides the most opportunities for a balanced education, enabling students to pursue their science careers and interests at a later date without the need for them to specialise too early.

The Double Award contains elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The double award certificate will show two grades from A*A* – GG. It will show the same grade twice.

Three separate science GCSEs

Any student who opts to take Physics, Chemistry and Biology as separate GCSEs should be aware that they may be neglecting other areas of their education. This choice is, perhaps most appropriate for those who have a love of, and talent for, the sciences and who feel sure they wish to pursue science at a higher level.