

AS Chemistry

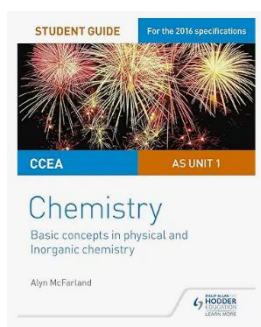


About the course:

AS Chemistry is a popular subject choice however there is a high degree of difficulty associated with this subject. The step up from GCSE Chemistry is challenging and students must start the year off with the correct attitude, ensuring that they complete all work set by their teacher as well as engaging in at least one hour of independent study 5 times per week where they are learning their notes and reviewing past paper questions.

Resources:

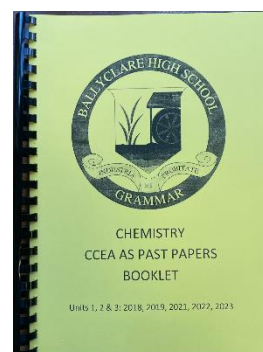
CCEA Revision Guide (Available from Amazon)



These are useful as they are written by examiners and provide exemplar candidate answers with examiner feedback. There is a separate revision guide for each unit (AS1, AS2). There is also a practical guide that can be used for both AS3 and A23. If you purchase any of these Revision Guides, please ensure it is the latest version written for the 2016 spec onwards.

BHS Past Paper Booklet (paid for through iPay)

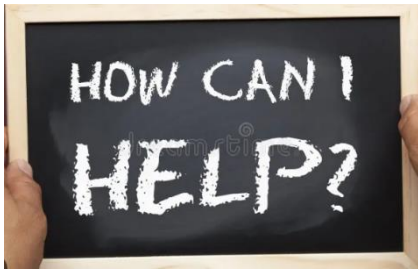
This is an important resource produced by the department and should play a key role in your child's preparation for all tests and their examinations at the end of the year. They will be set work to complete from this booklet at home, as well as being used in class along side other resources.



CCEA Website: <https://ceea.org.uk/post-16/gce/subjects/gce-chemistry-2016>

On the Chemistry Microsite, past papers and mark schemes are available to download. If your child is making effective use of their past paper booklets, they can check their answers to questions they are doing beyond homework using the mark schemes. This will give them an insight into the language needed and, the detail examiners expect from them to gain marks. If they find any questions difficult or don't understand the mark scheme, they should speak to their teacher at the earliest convenient time to get the problem resolved or call into the **drop-in Chemistry Clinic on a Thursday lunch time.**

There are also helpful fact files available on the microsite produced by the examination team.



Quiz your child: Use your child's notes to ask them to recall facts which will help them retain this information in their long-term memory.

You can use their definitions list to ask them to repeat their definitions back to you.

You do not need to know or understand any of this material!

If your child cannot recall these basic facts, they need to spend more time learning the content.

Ask them about their end of topic tests: These are completed on a regular basis. Your child may also have completed other assessed pieces of work throughout the topic to gauge their level of knowledge/understanding.

Some questions you could ask are:

- What is your child's MAG?
- What grade did they get in their test?
- What study techniques did they use for this test?
- Is this the grade they want overall? If not, how can they improve?

Encourage independent study at home: Your child may not have a specific assigned homework every night, but this does not mean they have nothing to do! Revision notes, past paper questions and learning definitions can and should always be completed as part of their daily independent study at home.

It is important that your child finds a balance with their extra-curricular activities, any part time jobs they may have and their schoolwork. This year is vital to their overall A Level grade.

Chemistry Department expectations:

All teachers will make their expectations clear to their individual students at the start of the year. Some general expectations we have as a department are:

- Excellent class attendance
- Arrive to class on time
- Use your Private Study time in school to study for example: to review your notes, complete homework, make revision notes, do past paper questions etc.
- You must go over your class notes every day; do not come to class unaware of what was discussed the previous lesson
- Ensure you complete all homework/revision evidence and bring your notes to class.

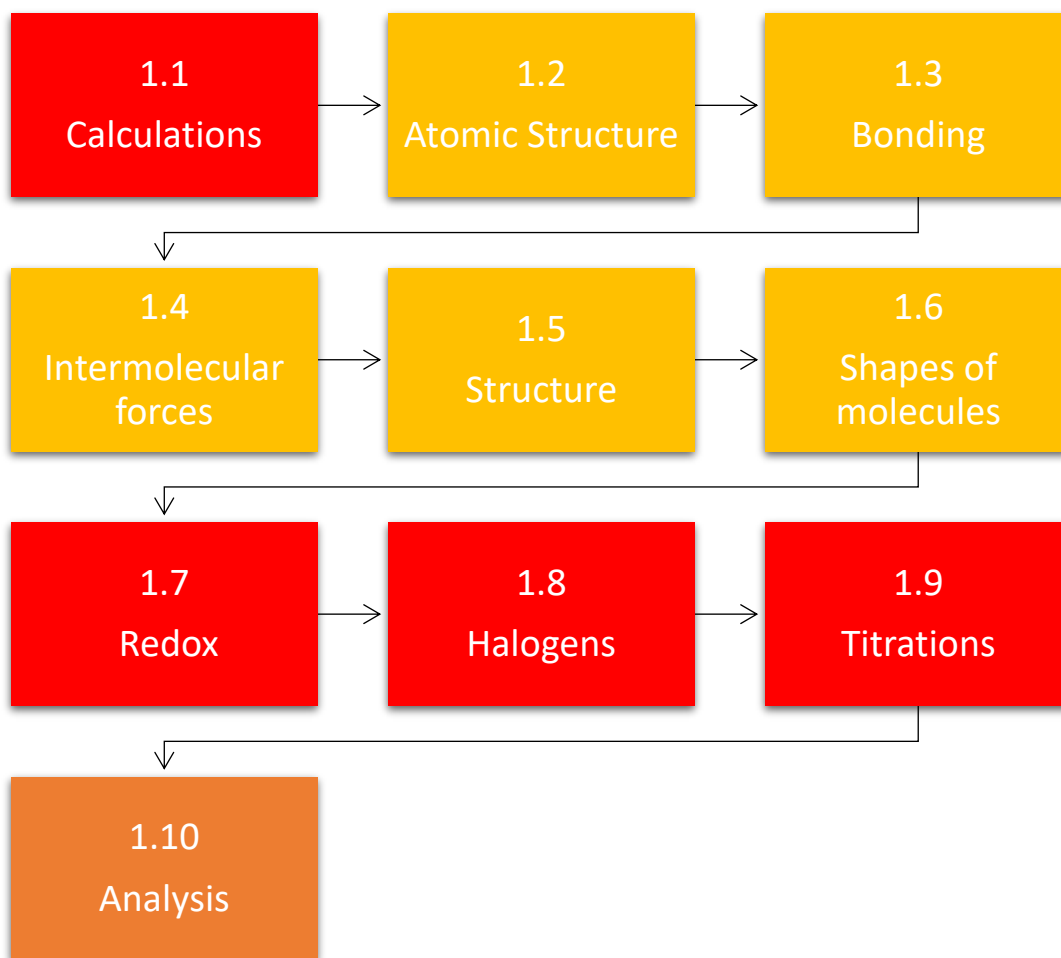
If you get less than a pass grade in a test or exam you will be given an opportunity to re sit it along with an opportunity to have the content clarified.

If you get less than a pass grade on more than one occasion you will be interviewed by the Head of Chemistry.

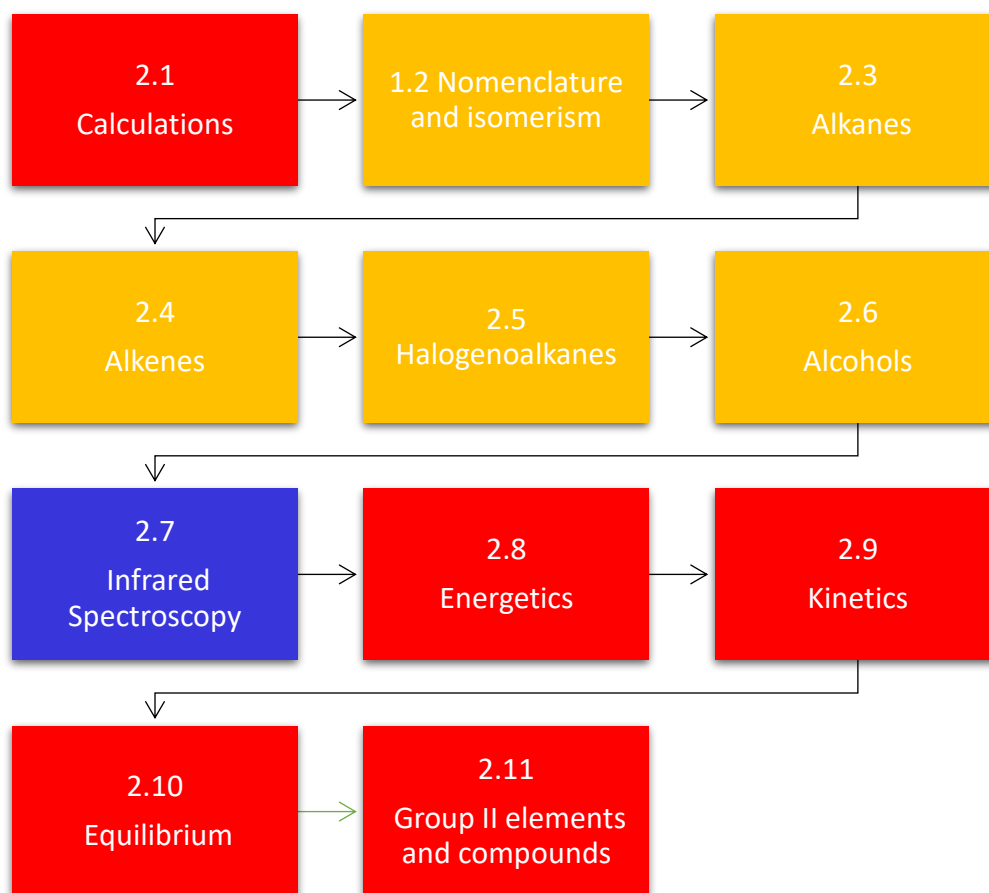
We expect you to prepare fully for a re sit which will occur after school on a day decided by your teacher. If you are having difficulty with any aspect of the topic, you should resolve this with your teacher before your re-sit.

Course Delivery:

The course is taught by specialist teachers with each unit split between two teachers. Unit 1 will be taught in the first part of the year and completed around December. This module is worth 40 % of the AS qualification and is examined in a 90-minute paper. The topics covered are outlined below with the split between teachers colour coded. Both teachers will contribute to the teaching of 1.10



The second module will be taught and examined in the same style and is again worth 40% of the AS qualification. The split of topics covered is once again outlined below:



The rest of the qualification is made up of a practical exam which is made up of two components. The first part is completed in early May in School under exam conditions (25 marks) and the second part is completed in the examination hall (55 marks.)

Content from both of the first two modules will be examined on AS3 in a practical context.