

Improving science practicals



GCSE



practical
activities
(minimum)



for combined
science



15%
of total marks
(written)



A level



practical
experiments
(minimum)



15%
of total marks
(written)



We are reforming science GCSEs and A levels. One of the main changes to both qualifications is how we will assess practical work.

- Students do at least 8 practical activities (16 for combined science) covering specific apparatus and techniques
- Written questions about practical work will make up at least 15% of the total marks for the qualification
- There will be no separate grade for practical skills
- Students studying combined science will receive grades from 1-1 to 9-9



GCSE

- Students do at least 12 practical experiments per subject
- Students will need to record their experiments as they do them
- Written questions about practical work will make up at least 15% of the total marks for the qualification
- Practical skills will receive a pass or fail grade at the end of the course



A level

For both GCSE and A level

Schools will have to confirm they have taken reasonable steps to make sure that students complete all the defined practical activities. This reflects the critical importance of practicals within the science curriculum.