Physics

AS and A Level

Exam board

OCR

Entry criteria

Grades 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Physics plus grade 7 in Maths

Strongly recommended to take AS Level Mathematics alongside Physics

Assessment

AS Level: Two written examination papers (Year 12)

A Level: Three written examination papers (Year 13) plus a practical endorsement for Physics

Overview

Physics is about analysing the world around us, using mathematics to describe the way things happen. From this, predictions can be made and tested.

When studying A Level Physics, you'll need to work systematically from the outset. You will encounter a variety of lesson styles: class discussion, independent learning, research, note-taking and practical work all have a role to play. Many concepts will be taught through experiments and practical activities.

Physics gives a language and framework to describe the natural world and can be used to make accurate and powerful estimations of complex questions: you'll start applying the principles to things you notice around you. In Year 12 we study modules in Foundations of Physics; Forces and Motion; and Electrons, Waves and Photons. In Year 13 we cover modules in Newtonian World and Astrophysics; and Particle and Medical Physics.

Careers and study progression

Physics is one of the most requested subjects for university entry. A degree can lead to research roles across the sciences. It is also useful for careers in business, finance, IT and engineering; and in the prediction of climate change; design of computer games; and from architecture to Alzheimer's research.