# Parent revision support guide.
# GCSE Edexcel Combined Science

This guide is to help you support your young person in the preparation for their GCSE science exam.

**What your young person is preparing for**:

6 exam papers
1 hour 10 mins, 60 marks each

Foundation Tier, grades achievable 11 - 55
or
Higher Tier, grades achievable 43 - 99

Every mark your young person gains contributes to an overall score out of 360 that will be awarded as 2 GCSE grades

**Biology Paper 1:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026, pm

**Chemistry Paper 1:** Monday, May 18, 2026, am

**HALF TERM**

**Physics Paper 1:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026, am.

**Biology Paper 2:** Monday, June 8, 2026, am.

**Chemistry Paper 2:** Friday, June 12, 2026, am

**Physics Paper 2:** Monday, June 15, 2026, am

Every mark counts
We want to work with you to support your young person to achieve their best possible grade in GCSE Science

## How can you help?

(without any science knowledge)

Encourage revision **little and often** rather than cramming

- Ask them to **explain a topic out loud** (teaching you shows their learning)
- Help them to **focus and devote time** in **quiet and calm** space to revise their learning
- Test using **exam questions**, not just rewriting notes
- Encourage **marking with mark schemes, noting the keywords and processes looked for by the examiners**
- Focus on **weak topics**, not favourites.
- Describe required practical's, **method, variables, equipment, graphs**.

### Recommended Weekly Revision Structure

- 2 – 3 sessions per subject per week, 20 – 30 minutes each.
- A mix of learning videos/notes
- practise questions
- reviewing mistakes

### Exam tips to reinforce

- Always **read the question** carefully
- Check **command** words, think what they want you to do (**describe, explain, calculate**
- Use key scientific terms
- **Show working** in calculations, ensure you get every mark
- Use the number of marks as a guide e.g. **3 marks, 3 bullet points**

## Best Free Revision Resources

**Sparx science**

**Flashcards, Schools own use Quizlet**

**BBC Bitesize**
Great for learning + revising content, short explanations, videos + quizzes

**Physics and Maths Tutor**
Best for topic-by-topic exam questions, mark schemes, revision notes +
Required practical summaries

**Save my exams**
Excellent clear notes, diagrams, exam style Q's

**Seneca**
Focused topic summary with targeted Q's

**Free Science lessons**
Ideal for visual learners and tricky topics, clear topic by topic video explanations

Ask your young person about these and other resources we have shared with them; we have given them a selection so they can pick what works best for them

### Final reminder

Your young person is familiar with resources, hopefully they will take the opportunity to use them to revise

Little and often is key

Consistency beats intensity

Past paper questions are more important than rereading/rewriting notes

Confidence grows with practice
We look forward to seeing your young person experience the success their efforts deserve
Anything else we can do to help, please ask

## Biology Paper 1 Topics

**Key Concepts**

Cells, Microscopy, Enzymes, Diffusion, Osmosis, Active Transport

**Cells and Control**

Mitosis, Cell Division/Growth, Stem Cells, Nervous System, Synapses, Reflexes

**Genetics**

Sexual Reproduction, Meiosis, DNA, Genetic Diagrams, Variations, Mutations, Genome Proj

**Natural Selection and Genetic Modification**

Natural Selection, Evidence for Evolution, Classification, Selective Breeding, Genetic Engineering

**Health, Disease & Development of Medicines**

Health, Disease, STI's, Fighting Disease, Immunity, Immunisation, Antibiotics, Medicines, Non-Communicable Diseases, Obesity Cardiovascular Disease

## Biology Paper 2 Topics

**Key Concepts**

Cells, Microscopy, Enzymes, Diffusion, Osmosis, Active Transport

**Plant Structures & Their Functions**

Photosynthesis, Transport, Transpiration

**Animal Coordination, Control & Homeostasis**

Hormones, The Menstrual Cycle, Contraception, Homeostasis, Diabetes

**Exchange & Transport in Animals**

Specialised Exchange Surfaces, Alveoli, Blood Vessels, Heart, Respiration

**Ecosystems and Material Cycles**

Ecosystems and the Factors Affecting, Interdependence, Human Impacts on Biodiversity, Carbon/Water/Nitrogen Cycles

## Chemistry Paper 1 Topics

**Key Concepts**

Writing Equations, Hazards, The Atom History/Structure, Using the Periodic Table, Isotopes, Electronic Configuration, Bonding, Types of Structure/Properties Ionic/Metallic/Giant Covalent/Simple Molecular, Calculating Empirical Formula/Concentration

**States of Matter**

Changes, Purity, Distillation, Filtration, Crystallisation, Chromatography, Potable Water

**Chemical Changes - Acids**

Neutralisation, Indicators, reactions with metals/ oxides/hydroxides/carbonates, Soluble and Insoluble Salts, Preparing Dry Sample of Crystals

**Chemical Changes - Electrolysis**

Predicting products, Electrolysis of copper sulfate

**Extracting Metals and Equilibria**

Reactivity Series, Carbon Extraction, Electrolysis Extraction, Recycling, Life Cycle Assessments

## Chemistry Paper 2 Topics

**Key Concepts – same as paper 1**

**Groups of the Periodic Table**

Group 1 / 7 / 0 their Properties and Reactions

**Rates of Reaction & Energy Changes**

Measuring rates, Calculating Rates, Collision Theory, Catalysts, Endothermic/Exothermic, Bond Energies, Activation Energy

**Fuels and Earth Science**

Fractional Distillation, Hydrocarbons, Combustion, Pollutants, Cracking, Atmosphere, Greenhouse Effect, Climate Change

## Physics Paper 1 Topics

**Motion, Forces & Conservation of Energy**

Distance, Displacement, Speed, Velocity, Acceleration, Distance/ Time & Velocity Time Graphs, Weight, Newtons 3 Laws, Resultant Forces, Stopping Distances, Reaction Times, Energy Stores, Conservation of Energy, Energy Transfers, Kinetic/Gravitational Potential Energy Stores & Calculations, Efficiency, Energy Resources Pros and Cons

**Waves & the Electromagnetic Spectrum**

Wave properties, Speed, Behaviours, Refraction, EMS spectrum, Uses and Dangers

**Radioactivity**

Atomic Model, Isotopes, Alpha/Beta/Gamma Radiation, Nuclear Equation, Background Radiation, Half Life, Irradiation, Contamination

## Physics Paper 2 Topics

**Forces & Energy**

Energy Transfers & Systems, Forces, Work Done, Wasted Energy, Power

**Electricity & Circuits**

Current, Potential Difference, Resistance, I-V Graphs, Devices, Series, Parallel, Energy in Circuits, Electricity in the Home, Electrical Safety, Transformers, National Grid

**Magnetic Fields**

Magnets, Magnetic Fields, Permanent/Induced, Electromagnets/Solenoid

**Matter**

Density, Kinetic Theory & States of Matter, Specific Heat Capacity, Specific Latent Heat, Particle Motion in Gases, Forces & Elasticity