

Purpose Statement

Level 1 Award and Certificate in Science (RQF)

The primary purpose of this qualification is to prepare you for further learning/training and/or to develop skills in a subject area. If you have an interest in Science but are not ready to work towards a GCSE or other Level 2 Science qualification then this qualification could be appropriate for you. It has been designed to give you the transferable skills required to complete scientific investigations as well as giving you the opportunity to cover a range of scientific theories and concepts relating to Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Who is it for?

Those looking to take their first Science qualification

Learners undertaking vocational learning or an apprenticeship that needs Science skills and theory to support their main programme of learning

Individuals taking alternative routes to GCSEs wishing to develop Science skills and knowledge

What does this qualification cover?

For the Level 1 Award, you will be required to complete 8 credits and commit to approximately 80 hours of learning. For the Level 1 Certificate, you will be required to complete 18 credits and commit to approximately 180 hours of learning.

You will be required to complete a mandatory unit in 'Science Investigations.' This unit requires you to complete a science investigation or experiment ending including: thinking about the question; planning the experiment; outlining an hypothesis; setting the experiment up; completing the experiment; drawing conclusions; reporting their findings; and demonstrating a regard for health and safety throughout. This will support the development of transferable skills required for a role in a scientific or mathematical industry but also supports problem solving and critical thinking skills that will benefit independent living and working.

Optional units are grouped into Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The rules of combination require you to complete at least 1 from each unit group to ensure that the curriculum covers 'science' as a whole. The optional units include: The Human Body; Plants; Chemical Reactions; Exploring our Universe; Elements and Compounds; Fuels and Pollution.

What are the Entry Requirements?

As there is an expectation for you to produce some written evidence for your portfolio, it is recommended that you be functioning at a minimum of level 1 for written English or working towards this. There may be exceptions to this and you should discuss any support needs with your tutor/teacher. Some units include mathematical calculations and problem solving. You should discuss the chosen units with your tutor/teacher before starting the programme to ensure they are appropriate for you.

There are no age restrictions for working towards this qualification and no specific prior achievements required.

What are the Progression Opportunities?

The qualification provides a mechanism for you to recognise and develop your skills in Science. Skills in this subject are highly sought after by employers.

The achievement of the qualification will prepare you for progression to the next level of learning in Science. Examples of this include, but are not exclusive to:

- Level 2 Certificate in Science
- Level 2 Award in Science for Work

At the same time, a level 1 qualification can be your passport to other types of learning, for example:

- An Apprenticeship
This is a programme that combines practical training in a job with study. They are available in all types of sectors, from administration to horticulture, engineering to catering. All apprentices must take either Functional Skills English at Level 2 or GCSE English as part of their studies and by achieving the Level 1 qualification you will be able to evidence that you have got the ability to do this.

What are the Assessment Methods?

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence to achieve this qualification. This will include a combination of both written work and evidence of practical application.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification was developed with and supported by a range of education providers, including: Bank View High School and Crosby High.