

## Frequently Asked Question

### Science Department

#### **FAQ #1 : Can I offer a A-Level science subject if I do not have a corresponding O-Level science subject?**

Students need to show evidence of the acquisition of the assumed knowledge to be offered the subject.

The syllabus of a science subject at A-Level builds on and extend the content coverage at O-Level. Students will need to have assumed knowledge and understanding of the subject at O-Level, either as a pure subject or as part of a combined science subject. Teachers will build on these assumed knowledge as part of the A-Level curriculum.

#### **FAQ #2 : How is A-Level Science different from O-Level Science?**

The topics learnt at A-Level are a continuum from the O-Level pure sciences. The O-Level syllabus is foundational and provides the necessary background for study at the A-Level. At the A-Level, a higher level of processing skills and deeper understanding of the scientific theories and concepts are required as the assessment is pitch at a much more demanding level. Many O-Level pure science students expressed that the A-Level subject requirement is a quantum jump in comparison to the O-Level. It will be even more so for students who offered only combined science

#### **FAQ #3 : What is the H2 subject cut-off point?**

College has put together a set of Indicative cut-off points as Indicative Grade Profiles.

If a subject or subject combination is oversubscribed, students will be selected based on academic merit. Not all students who have selected the subject will be offered. In order to help students in assessing their competitiveness for the subject, the College has put together some indicative cut-off points in the form of an Indicative Grade Profile to assist students in making an informed choice for subjects with subject prerequisites or assumed knowledge.

Indicative Grade Profiles refers to the grades scored by students who offered the relevant GCE O-Level subjects. The grade profiles may vary from year to year, depending on the number and grade performance of students, and the number of places for the subject. Meeting the previous year's grade profile does not guarantee that the subject can be offered, and vice versa.

Please refer to college website for the information and details.

Indicative Grade Profile		
Subject	Level	Indicative Grade at GCE O-Level
Mathematics	H2	Pass in Additional Mathematics <b>OR</b> A2 in Elementary Mathematics
Physics	H2	Pass in Pure Physics <b>OR</b> A2 or better in Science (Physics/Chemistry or Physics/Biology)

	H1	Pass in Pure Physics <b>OR</b> Science (Physics/Chemistry or Physics/ Biology)
Chemistry	H2	Pass in Pure Chemistry <b>OR</b> A2 or better in Science (Chemistry/Physics or Chemistry/Biology)
	H1	Pass in Pure Chemistry <b>OR</b> Science (Chemistry/Physics or Chemistry/ Biology)
Biology	H2	Pass in Pure Biology <b>OR</b> A2 or better in Science (Biology/Chemistry or Biology/Physics)
	H1	Pass in Pure Biology <b>OR</b> Pass in Science (Biology/Chemistry or Biology/Physics)
<b>Double Sciences</b> H2 Chemistry & H2 Physics	H2	Pass in both Pure Chemistry and Pure Physics <b>OR</b>
		Pass in Pure Chemistry <b>and</b> A2 or better in Combined Science (Physics/Biology) <b>OR</b>
		Pass in Pure Physics <b>and</b> A2 or better in Combined Science (Chemistry/Biology)
<b>Double Sciences</b> H2 Chemistry & H2 Biology	H2	Pass in both Pure Chemistry and Pure Biology <b>OR</b>
		Pass in Pure Chemistry <b>and</b> A2 or better in Combined Science (Biology/Physics) <b>OR</b>
		Pass in Pure Biology <b>and</b> A2 or better in Combined Science (Chemistry/Physics)
Note: A grade of C6 or better is considered an O-Level pass.		

#### FAQ #4 : With combined science, will I be able to offer H2 Science?

- Candidates taking H2 or H1 science are assumed to have knowledge and understanding of science subject at O-level, as a single subject or as part of a balanced science course.
- While students can apply for the subject, we cannot guarantee that we can offer the subject. If a subject or subject combination is oversubscribed, students will be selected based on academic merit. Hence, students should refer to the indicative grade profile to make an informed decision.

#### FAQ #5 : Will there be bridging modules for combine science students taking H2 sciences?

Students offering H2 sciences are assumed to have the knowledge and understanding of the O-Level Science syllabus. To help students to narrow the learning gap between O-Level combined science and Science subject syllabus, bridging modules for relevant topics will be shared with students via online platform (e.g. SLS). Students are expected to be self-directed to review and learn the content prior to the conduct of the related H2 topics.