

# Science in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form at St. Helen's

# Commonly asked Questions IB versus A level

What are the  
differences between  
IB and A level?

Which is better  
IB or A level?

Which is harder  
IB or A level?

Will it make any difference to which university one gets into if one does IB instead of A level?

# Introduction to OCR A level H034 (AS level) and H434 (A level)

- The AS level consists of three units F321, F322 and F323.
- The A2 level consists of three units F324, F325 and F326.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>% of AS level</b>	<b>% of A level</b>
<b>F321</b>	Atoms, bonds and groups.	Atomic structure, moles, bonding, periodicity, group 2 and group 7.	1 hour written paper out of 60 marks.	30%	15%
<b>F322</b>	Chains, energy and resources.	Alkanes , alkenes, halogenoalkanes, IR spec, mass spec, enthalpy changes, rates, equilibria, chemistry of the atmosphere and green chemistry.	1¾ hour written paper out of 100 marks.	50%	25%
<b>F323</b>	Practical skills in Chemistry	Practical skills.	3 one hour practical exercises done under exam conditions, but in school time.	20%	10%

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>% of A level</b>
<b>F324</b>	Rings, polymers and analysis.	Arenes, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and esters, amines, polymers, chromatography, NMR spec, IR spec and mass spec.	1 hour synoptic written paper out of 60 marks.	15%
<b>F325</b>	Equilibria, energetic and elements.	Rates, equilibria, acids and bases, Born Haber cycles, entropy and Gibbs free energy, Electrode potentials and fuel cells, transition metals.	1¾ hour synoptic written paper out of 100 marks.	25%
<b>F326</b>	Practical skills in Chemistry	Practical skills.	3 one hour practical exercises done under exam conditions, but in school time.	10%

Core SL	Topic	Time
Topic 1	Quantitative chemistry	12.5
Topic 2	Atomic structure	4
Topic 3	Periodicity	6
Topic 4	Bonding	12.5
Topic 5	Energetics	8
Topic 6	Kinetics	5
Topic 7	Equilibrium	5
Topic 8	Acids and bases	6
Topic 9	Oxidation and reduction	7
Topic 10	Organic chemistry	12
Topic 11	Measurement and data processing	2
Total		80

# IB HL assessment

Paper	Length	Weighting	Style
1	1 hour	20%	40 multiple-choice questions (20 on the core and about 20 more on the AHL)
2	2¼ hours	36%	Section A: one data-based question and several short-answer questions on the core and the AHL (all compulsory) Section B: two extended-response questions on the core and the AHL (from a choice of four)
3	1¼ hours	20%	Several short-answer questions in each of the two options studied (all compulsory)
Course work	60 hours	24%	A variety of practical investigations including the group 4 project.

# Options 15 Hrs or 22 Hrs

- Option A: Modern analytical chemistry
- Option B: Human biochemistry
- Option C: Chemistry in industry and technology
- Option D: Medicines and drugs
- Option E: Environmental chemistry
- Option F: Food chemistry
- Option G: Further organic chemistry