



Level 3 AAQ National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

Location	Cheadle College
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	A Levels
Start Date	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Course Code	CFQ-CL3S-1200

Course Overview

Designed for learners who are interested in learning about the science sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in applied science. To be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate A Levels.

Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%)

Course Requirements

Standard A Level entry requirements: 5 x GCSE grade 5's or above (must include Maths and English Language).

What You Will Learn

1. Principles and Applications of Science - This unit covers some of the key science concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. Topic areas covered are animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.
2. Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques - Learners will be introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, calibration, chromatography, calorimetry and laboratory safety, which are relevant to the chemical and life science industries.
3. Learners will cover the stages involved and the skills needed in planning a scientific investigation: how to record, interpret, draw scientific conclusions and evaluate.

Assessment

Equivalent in size to one A Level.

4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.

Mandatory content (83%).

External assessment (58%).

Progression

Students completing their BTEC Nationals in Applied Science will be aiming to go on to employment, often via the stepping stone of higher education degree courses or a degree apprenticeship.

Learners develop the transferable and higher order skills which are valued by higher education providers and employers. Progression into careers such as engineering, psychology, health and social care, nursing, exercise science.

The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects which would benefit from some scientific background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen. For example, taken alongside:

A Levels such as Mathematics, Physics and Design and Technology to progress to engineering related courses

A Level in Psychology and

A Levels in Geography and Computing to progress to geography or environmental science courses.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers

Career Options

Taken alongside 2 A level subjects, this course could lead to careers in a variety of scientific and non-scientific areas, e.g. engineering, psychology, health and social care, nursing, exercise science.

Mandatory Units

Principles and Applications of Science:

Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Science Investigation Skills

Optional unit chosen from a variety of biological, chemical or physics topics.

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.