



Introduction

The following information is important and should be read by both the pupil and his parents/guardians. This includes a course outline, the assessment programme, and the procedures that apply with the NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement).

Please be aware that there may be minor changes made to the course content, to optimise the learning outcomes for individual pupils - but only after consultation.

Pupils will have regular tests after completion of each topic and a practice exam will take place at the end of Term 3. The exams and tests will be marked using the NCEA levels of achievement: No Achievement, Achievement, Achievement with Merit and Achievement with Excellence.

NCEA Level 1 Science Course

The total number of credits available to most science pupils is 26 credits, as detailed below. The NCEA is assessed both internally (scientific skills) and externally (scientific knowledge and understanding).

Internal Achievement Standards (Formal test conditions apply)

Science 1.1 Carry out a practical science investigation with direction (4 credits)

Keywords: Fair test, reaction rate

Science 1.2 Process information to describe a use of science knowledge with direction (2 credits)

Keywords: Biological warfare, pathogens, ethics

External Achievement Standards (Written examination papers)

Science 1.3 Describe aspects of biology (5 credits)

Keywords: Micro-organisms, DNA, inheritance, applied genetics

Science 1.4 Describe aspects of chemistry (5 credits)

Keywords: Atomic structure, formulae, equations, metals, acids, bases

Science 1.5 Describe aspects of geology (3 credits)

Keywords: Rock types, rock formation

Science 1.6 Describe aspects of physics (5 credits)

Keywords: Force, motion, energy, DC electricity

Science 1.7 Describe aspects of astronomy (2 credits)

Keywords: Solar system, spatial relationships, space exploration

Y11 Science 2008

Entry requirements for Y12 Sciences

The following requirements need to be met, at the Y11 Level, for automatic entry to Y12 Sciences:

Biology	12 credits in Science (10 must be external)
Physics	18 credits in Science (5 must be in Physics and 12 credits in Level 1 Maths)
Chemistry	18 credits in Science (5 must be in Chemistry and 12 credits in Level 1 Maths)
Agriculture	9 credits in Science
Applied Science	6 credits in Science, or, 10 in Year 11 Applied Science

Pupils who fail to meet the above criteria, and who wish to do a Science in Year 12, will be interviewed by The Head of the appropriate Department.

Internal Achievement Standards Programme for 2008

<u>Term 1</u>	Literature research practice for Science 1.2 (Library, Computer Labs)
<u>Term 2</u>	Assessment for Science 1.2 Fair Test Investigation design to collect and interpret valid reaction rate data for Science 1.1
<u>Term 3</u>	Assessment for Science 1.1 to coincide with the exams at the end of the term. A practice investigation is carried out prior to the final assessment.

Marking and Moderation

The teachers in The Science Department will mark the internal assessments. To ensure consistency in the marking, a number of procedures will be followed. A markers meeting is held to set the standards and ensure that all teachers are familiar with the marking schedule. A check marking system will be used with teachers marking some papers from their colleagues to ensure that the standards are maintained.

Further moderation occurs outside the school with a number of samples of pupils work being check marked by moderators appointed by NZQA.

Reassessment

There is no opportunity for students to resit Science 1.1 and 1.2 to improve their grades. If you miss all, or part, of these assessments for medical reasons and have a medical certificate to explain your absence, then you may be offered the opportunity to resit later in the year. Medical certificates must be given to Mr. Burt within one week after the assessment has taken place.

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Appeals

Internally assessed Science (1.1, 1.2)

Any pupil who is not happy with his grade(s) has **two** school days to approach the teacher for a remarking of the paper, or an explanation that satisfies the pupil. If the pupil is still not happy then he may ask for a ruling from the moderator in the Science Department, or, from Mr Burt (HOD Science). Hopefully by this stage things have been sorted out. If not then Mr Thomas, the teacher in charge of assessment, may become involved.

NB. All papers will be retained by The School for moderation and security purposes. No appeal can be made on any paper that has been removed from the school.

Externally assessed Science (1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7)

If a pupil would like their work reassessed then they can send away for a remarking of their paper(s). This will carry a charge.

How to succeed in Year 11 Science

It is important to realise that most of the assessment is at the end of the academic year. To achieve well in the exams:

- Be organised and up to date
- Revise well for the tests during the year – topic checklists are provided
- From the end of Term 3 organise a revision timetable to go over your work. The Science Department will help you do this.
- Be attentive at all times in class and ensure that you have all the work in your book
- If you miss work - for any reason - then catch up straight away
- Keep your work well presented as this helps with revision
- Use the Pathfinder Textbooks to do extra practice exercises in your own time
- Identify areas where you have problems and do exercises to improve these areas
- Work together as a class to reach the best possible result: teamwork. Respect your fellow pupils.
- Work with the teacher to reach the best possible result. Respect the teacher and make their job easier.

All pupils **must** have a password and sufficient funds in their accounts to use the computers for the Research Assignment (Science 1.2)