

## Science GCSE delivery and results

From 2007, most GCSE students took new science GCSEs.

- Students now study a core of science (comparable to what was previously known as single science). Most students boost this with additional or additional applied science (comparable to former double science, with an academic or vocational focus), or they can take enough extra units to claim three science GCSEs in biology, physics and chemistry, also known as “triple science”.
- Many schools deliver the courses consecutively, with students taking GCSE Science at the end of Year 10. If a student claims GCSE Science in Year 10 and then triple science in Year 11, their original Science GCSE grade will no longer count.

	Year 10 exams	Year 11 exams
<b>Old system</b>		Single science Double Science (2 GCSEs) Triple Science (3 GCSEs)
<b>New system – Consecutive</b>	Science Science Science (later discounted)	--- Additional or Additional Applied Science Triple Science (3 GCSEs)
<b>New system – Parallel</b>		Science Science & Additional or Additional Applied Science Science (unreported) & Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

## Results August 2008

It was hard to interpret the numbers of students taking different options as both the old and new systems were running. There should be more clarity in the future.

- **Additional and Additional Applied Science GCSEs should be reported separately.**

Overall GCSE entries dropped 2.7% but entries into “triple science” rose about a third - biology was up 35% to 85,521, chemistry up 29% to 76,656 and physics up 29% to 75,383. Why?

- Efforts to enthuse children and improve their teaching may be having impact.
- Children who might previously have committed to double science at the start of Year 10 may instead be choosing triple science at the end of it.
- More schools now offer triple science (see briefing on triple science entitlement).