



The Triple Science "Entitlement"

The Commitment

From *Science and innovation investment framework 2004-2014: Next Steps*, HM Treasury:

"6.25 At GCSE, students have a choice of taking a single science, a double science or three separate sciences. The type of science GCSE taken has an impact upon the likelihood of pupils to progress to A level study in science and their attainment. The odds of getting an A or B at A level chemistry in the maintained sector are increased by 76 per cent for pupils who take three separate science GCSEs compared to those who took double science. Double science equips pupils with the necessary skills for A level but the three separate sciences appear to be an important determinant of progression. It is also crucial to have mechanisms in place to stretch the most able pupils as much as possible. The policy priority is to increase provision of the three separate science GCSEs.

Box 6.6 GCSE options: commitment

The Government will:

- by September 2008, all pupils achieving at least level 6 at Key Stage 3 to be entitled to study triple science GCSE, for example through collaborative arrangements with other schools, FE colleges and universities;
- by September 2008, ensure that all specialist science schools offer triple science at least to all pupils achieving level 6+ at the end of Key Stage 3; and
- encourage all schools to make triple science available to all pupils who could benefit."

The Reality

- Only 58% of science specialist schools entered students into triple science in 2006 and just 26% of other non-selective schools.¹ Over half of (not science-specialist) schools that did not enter students into triple science in 2007 now offer it.² Still, a fifth of schools that did not enter students into triple science in 2007 had no plans to offer it and another fifth were undecided.
- Many students are being offered classes off-site and at week-ends or afterschool.
- Specialist science, engineering, mathematics or technology schools will only be able to register or be redesignated as such if they offer triple science from September 2010.

CaSE recommendations

- **Schools should have a statutory duty to offer triple science to interested and capable students.**
- **Data on which schools are offering triple science, where and when should be systematically collected.**

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¹ Parliamentary question, June 2007.

² Triple Science Survey Results, Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2008.