**Lady Lumley’s A level Chemistry Department**

**How to independently study**

THE most effective way to get better in Chemistry is to do it.

To master a subject, it takes time. This should be on-going, the sooner you start, the more prepared you will feel. The better you feel the more likely you are to give it the time. This creates a positive outlook and relationship with study. Being organised and realistic with time will support wellbeing. We want you feeling challenged and supported.

Without challenge there isn’t change! The good thing is that you are never on your own!

**Where to start?**

Look at your timetable and allocate 1 study period per week. This should be dedicated to understanding and applying. Habits take time…. Start now!

Studying should happen ALONGSIDE home learning. Listen to and talk to students who have done A levels – they often have the best advice. Past papers seem to always be the top tip!

[See this padlet site made by Miss Wilson](https://padlet.com/cwilson462/a-level-chemistry-study-151kv2e6fcj429fv) for resources discussed below.

**Textbook Questions — FINISH THE EXERCISES!**

You need to prioritise completing the textbook questions. You will notice that you only get the time to complete some questions during lesson time or for home learning. Go back and complete the different exercises and use your study periods or time outside of School to do this. Recommendations are…

* AQA Textbook (Kerboodle Available)
* Chemguide.com
* Chemistry in Context

**Exam Questions — topic specific**

Once you think you have mastered a topic, try some extra exam questions that focus specifically on that topic. You can find lots of resources here:

* [https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com](https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/) – *despite the name covers science!*
* AQA.com – *lots to go at here*
* Mark schemes – what you shouldn’t put is useful to know. *See examiners’s notes column on mark scheme scripts*
* Examiners notes *– give you an idea of what questions Grade A and Grade c candidates got wrong/correct.*

**Youtube**

There are also videos for each topic that you can watch, which go through examples and key points. These are really good and you can pause them and try the questions as you watch them.

* MaCHEM guy
* Allery tutors

**Revision Guides**

Use your revision guide. Plan a timescale of what you will complete per week. This could begin with 1 page each week and build up from there. This has lots of key notes and examples and extra questions to try. Use this to focus your revision on the topics you know you need to practice. You could make Flash Cards/Summary Notes as you finish a topic, to summarise the key points.

These are some revision resources I recommend:

* Collins AQA Year 1 and year 2 Chemistry
* CGP A level Chemistry revision guide
* CGP A level Chemistry workbook
* CGP A level Chemistry flashcards

**Past/Practice Papers**

As you go further through the course and start to build up your subject knowledge, you then have enough knowledge to be able to try a practice paper. Don’t try these too early as you need to feel confident and have revised the topics first. You can access past papers here

* <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com>
* AQA.com – *lots to go at here*

Once you are at this stage, plan how often you are going to complete the papers.

Will you try and do one each week? Initially use your notes but try not to use the worked solutions. If you get stuck on a question, that will tell you which topic you need to go back and revise!

Once you have finished the paper, mark it and annotate where you have gone wrong and make a list of the question numbers and topics you struggled with. Now you have a clear direction of what you need to practise before you try another paper.

**Thursday Workshop**

Always ask questions. If you do not understand something first time round do not worry!! Take the time to talk to us. There is no such thing as a stupid question and hearing students thinking aloud is very powerful for teachers.

**Course Summary A Level Chemistry at Lady Lumley's School**

**What you can expect from us**

* You will have 8 lessons of chemistry per cycle. Your teacher will provide you with a checklist of how you should keep your folders and notebooks and will go through this with you at the start of the year. Being organised is important and your folders will be checked regularly by your teachers.
* **Thursday evening 3 - 4pm help sessions in Sc 6.** Every Thursday at least one member of the Science department will be there to offer help if you require it This could be home learning extra study on a topic you found difficult in class or past paper help when it gets closer to exams. We really encourage you to attend this and a letter will be sent home with some more information.
* **Home learning/Study Period work** will be set every lesson. Tasks will be put on Class Charts.
* Although you will only be taught by a one teacher, all members of the department will be happy to help if you are stuck on a problem. **Pop down during a lunchtime/break time or after school and see who is around.**
* You will be continually assessed throughout your studies, both formally and informally, so that both us and **you will know how you are doing and whether you are achieving your potential.**

**What we expect from you…**

* **Commitment to study and hard work**
* **Punctuality and organisation are a priority.**
* **School community and leadership.**
* **Home learning** work must be completed on time, and you will be plenty of opportunities to ask for guidance if you need it.
* That you have a **positive attitude** towards the subject, your work and feedback.
* That you **ask for help** when you need it.

**Course Summary** We follow the AQA scheme of learning: 7404/7405 A level Chemistry You will be given a summary of the course and the specification and a handout on how to effectively revise for A level Chemistry. [AS and A-level Chemistry Specification Specifications for first teaching in 2015 (aqa.org.uk)](https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-7404-7405-SP-2015.PDF) You will be assessed at the end of Year 13 with three written exams. You will be allowed a calculator and be given a data sheet.

**A Level Chemistry Folders and Notes**

It is your responsibility to keep your chemistry folders, notes and note books organised. It is our responsibility to check this!

You should organise your notes carefully right from the start of year 12. This will ultimately make it much easier to revise from when it comes to your exams at the end of the year. Organising your notes will also help you refer back to topics when you are completing home learnings and past papers throughout the year.

**Guidance**

You should have: **A ring binder split into sections, such as: -**

* Name of module – 2 sections, one for each teacher
* Home Learning section - 2 sections, one for each teacher
* Past paper section

You should have: An **EXERCISE BOOK (which we give you)**, where you write your notes and example questions. This is optional, some students prefer to use their ring binder and paper to write up their notes.

When answering questions in class, this should be done on lined paper and then filed in your folder. Some students prefer to do all their working in their blue notebook. It is up to you to decide how you want to organise your chemistry work, but it must be organised and clear to follow.