

NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Chemistry National 5

CHEMISTRY
SCIENCES

NATIONAL
5

3
UNITS

CHEMICAL CHANGES AND STRUCTURE
NATURE'S CHEMISTRY
CHEMISTRY IN SOCIETY

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER

What skills will my child develop?

- application of knowledge to new situations and a more advanced understanding of chemistry and its impact
- scientific inquiry and investigation skills
- scientific analytical thinking skills
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials
- questioning and independent thinking
- problem-solving in a chemistry context
- using and understanding scientific literacy in everyday contexts
- planning experiments to test hypotheses or illustrate effects
- recording observations
- collecting, processing and analysing data
- making predictions and generalisations based on evidence
- drawing valid conclusions with explanations and evidence



WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active, collaborative and independent learning
- A blend of classroom approaches: practical tasks (experiments and open-ended investigations); whole class, small group or one to one discussions; direct interactive teaching
- Space for personalisation and choice
- Collaborative learning: partnerships with learners in other curriculum areas; links with businesses, employers, organisations
- Applying learning to new situations
- Embedding literacy skills: selecting and assessing information, presenting findings; evaluating; debating; listening; reading; writing
- Embedding numeracy skills: recording and displaying data in graphs/ tables; accuracy; interpreting and assessing data; using technologies.

ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (the Assignment and the Question Paper)
- Units are assessed by schools/centres (following SQA external quality assurance)
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be digital or spoken presentations, posters, leaflets, extended writing, notes or podcasts. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- The Course Assessment consists of the Assignment (a research investigation on a key topic, its application and its impact on society/environment. This will be presented as a report, researched in advance and written up under controlled conditions with the pupil's research/data available) and a Question Paper (exam). Both are marked by the SQA and will be graded A to D.

DISCUSSION IN THE CLASSROOM

Chemistry in Society:

We are studying radioisotopes, our reliance of radioactivity, its risks and benefits. We are considering the following questions: Will global security depend on a nuclear future? and How does the work of Becquerel and Curie impact on health care in the 21st century?

Does media coverage about nuclear chemistry accurately reflect scientific evidence and facts or does it use persuasive techniques?

National 5 progresses onto Higher Chemistry

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Chemistry National 5: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45722.html

Education Scotland: www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf