Applied Science

AAQ

What will I learn?

The AAQ (Alternative Academic Qualification) in applied science is a level 3 course offered by OCR. It is a two-year qualification equivalent to one A Level, emphasising a learner-centred approach with a flexible, unit-based structure. The course focuses on the practical, interpersonal, and thinking skills required for success in both employment and higher education. Students complete various units, assessments, and maintain a portfolio of assignments.

How will I learn?

The course utilises a learner-centred approach, incorporating a flexible, unit-based structure. Assessments include externally assessed exams and internally assessed coursework tasks, requiring students to maintain a portfolio showcasing their work, such as essays, presentations, practical write-ups, graphs, and research. Guided learning hours consist of both timetabled class time and independent study.

How will I be assessed?

In year 12 the assessment includes an externally assessed exam (module F180) and internally marked coursework module F182. In year 13 there will be a further externally assessed exam (F181) and 2 internally assessed coursework units. The portfolio, a compilation of individual student work, is evaluated.

FAQs.

Why choose BTEC Nationals Science (Level 3)?
The AAQ offers a learner-centred approach with a flexible structure, focusing on practical, interpersonal, and thinking skills essential for employment and higher education success. The course is demanding, requiring completion of units, assessments, and portfolio maintenance .Unlike A level sciences, this one course will include parts of biology, chemistry and physics. It's modular structure will also offer the opportunity to retake examined units where necessary.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
Completing the AAQ in applied science can lead to various career paths, including research science, technician roles, management, teaching, higher-level research, forensics, food manufacturing, environment and conservation, animal health and breeding, engineering, and aerospace. AAQ qualifications are viewed favourably by organisations offering apprenticeships.

Entry requirements:
To enrol in the course, a minimum of 44 in GCSE combined Science or 2 grade 4s in triple science is required.

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

Minimum of 44 in GCSE combined Science or 2 grade 4s in Triple Science

Skills Gained

Problem solving
Critical thinking
Evaluation
Data analysis
Creating Research
Team work
Presentation skills
Revision skills

Careers

Research Science
Technician roles
Management
Teaching
Higher-level research
Forensics
Food manufacturing
Environment and conservation
Animal health and breeding
Engineering
Aerospace