

New A Level Physics B (Advancing Physics)

H159 and H559 replacing 3888 and 7888

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Physics B (Advancing Physics) specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Physics B (Advancing Physics).

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels

Current specification – mapping the changes **page 2**

Outline specification for first teaching September 2008 **page 3**

QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE in Physics B (Advancing Physics) remains at six
- Coursework is retained as controlled assessment
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment.



Mapping the changes to the A Level Physics (Advancing Physics) specification for first teaching September 2008

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| Existing specification | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|----------|
| | Current unit title | Unit code | What remains the same? | What is changing? | Why is it changing? | Guidance |
| AS | Physics in Action | 2860 Mandatory 33.4% (AS) 16.7% (A Level) 1.5hr written exam | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section C is being withdrawn. Assessment is reduced to one hour. | | |
| AS | Understanding Processes | 2861 Mandatory 36.6% (AS) 18.3% (A Level) 1.5hr written exam | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit content remains in the specification with the addition of experimentation and data handling based on an advance notice article. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in internal assessment. Previous coursework content is now assessed in this unit. | |
| AS | Physics in Practice | 2862 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) Coursework | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasks have been reduced from three to two. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA requirements to reduce amount of internal assessment. Follows Institute of Physics wide reaching consultations. | |
| A2 | Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe/ Practical Investigation | 2863 | | | | |
| | 01 Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe | Mandatory 9.2% (A Level) 1hr 10min written exam | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes to reflect changes in physics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA revised criteria requirement. | |
| | 02 Practical Investigation | Mandatory 7.5% (A Level) Coursework | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to Unit 6 (G496) in the new specification. | | |
| A2 | Field and Particle Pictures/ Research Report | 2864 | | | | |
| | 01 Field and Particle Pictures | Mandatory 10.8% (A Level) 1hr 10min written exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying in Unit 5 (G495) in new specification. | | | |
| | 02 Research Report | Mandatory 7.5% (A Level) Coursework | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to Unit 6 (G496) in new specification. | | |
| A2 | Advances in Physics | 2865 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1.5hr written exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying in Unit 5 (G495) in new specification. | | | |

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For AS GCE all three units are mandatory. For Advanced GCE all six units are mandatory.

| | New unit title | New unit code | Benefits to me and my learners | Support |
|----|---|---|---|--|
| AS | Physics in Action | G491 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr written exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shorter than previously (lack of section C) allowing more time to prepare for January exam. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute of Physics updated books, CDs and resources. Scheme of Work for guidance. INSET programme. |
| AS | Understanding Processes and Experimentation and Data Handling | G492 Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1hr 45min written exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Experimentation and Data Handling questions will be asked on advance notice article, downloaded from secure OCR website. | |
| AS | Physics in Practice Task1 – Quality of Measurement Task 2 – Physics in Use | G493 Mandatory 20% (AS) 10% (A Level) Internal assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task 1 – on physical relationships, taking inferences from data. Task 2 – presentation about the use of properties or structures. | |
| A2 | Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe | G494 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1hr 15min written exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes to content reflect advances in Physics. | |
| A2 | Field and Particle Pictures and Advances in Physics | G495 Mandatory 25% (A Level) 2hr written exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides continuity from same unit in previous specification. | |
| A2 | Researching Physics Task 1 – Practical Investigation Task 2 – Research Briefing | G496 Mandatory 10% (A Level) Internal assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task 1 - Extended investigation of a practical problem related to physics or its applications. Task 2 – A written and verbal report based on a topic of physics of the candidate's choosing requiring the use and synthesis of different areas of the subject. | |

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