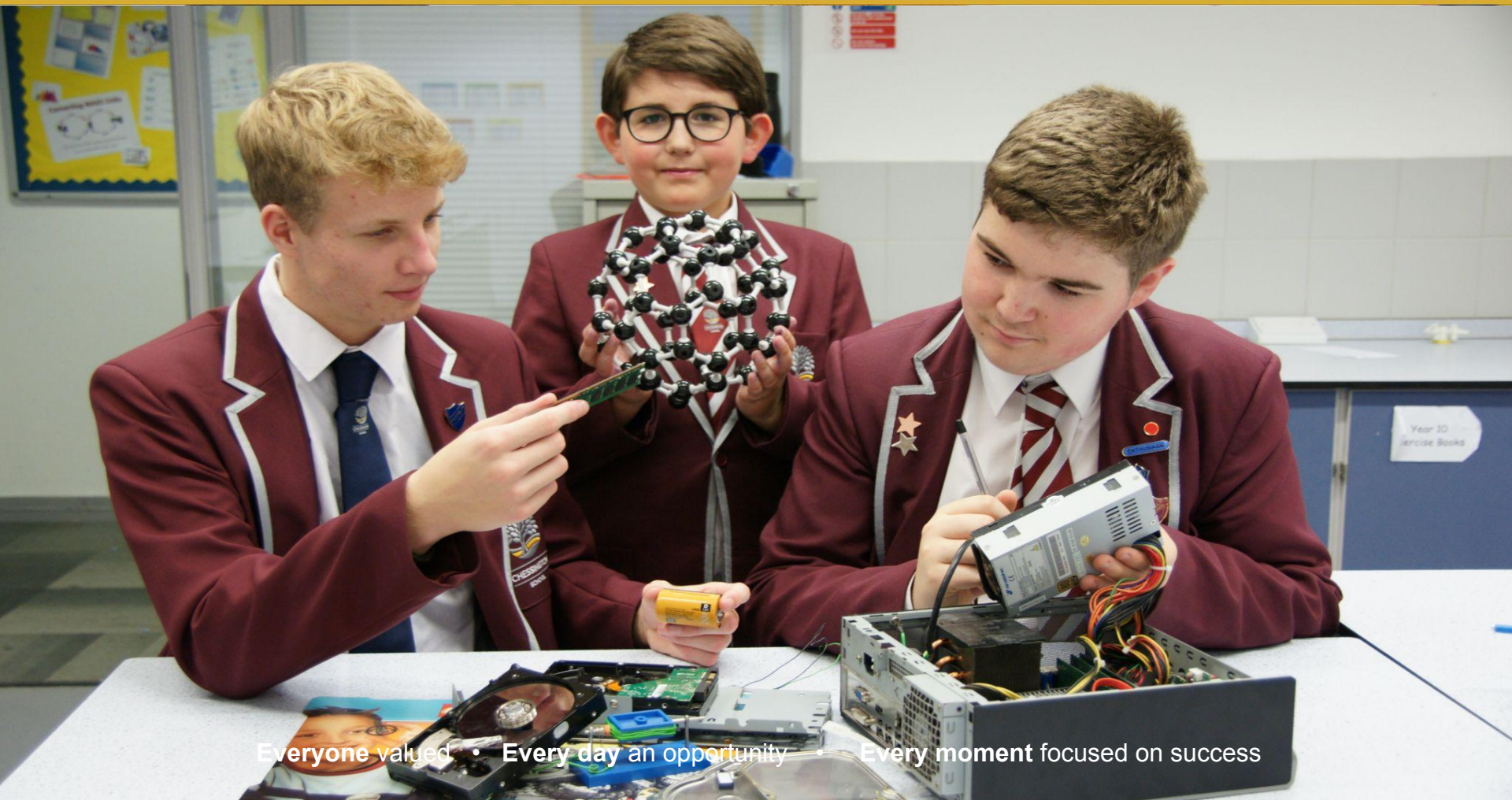
CHESSINGTON SCHOOL

Science Exams
Top Tips



Time Management

You have 75 minutes for 70 marks (for combined)
You have 105 Minutes for 100 marks (for separate)

1 mark = 1 minute

Some time left over at the end to check your answers.

Some questions will take less than one minute to answer, whereas others will take slightly longer than 6 minutes to answer.

Find the command word - Answer the questions.

Underline key words and information

Wordy questions can be daunting.

Underline/highlight key information to help you pick out the things you need.
Put a box around the command word (what is the question asking you to do?)

Cross out any red herrings – for example, information in a table that you're not going to need.

Tick each piece of information off as you use it so you don't miss anything out.
The easier you make it for the examiner to read your answers, the more marks you could obtain.

Lay out each step of your working clearly and include units where necessary.

Command Keywords

Balance

Students need to balance a chemical equation.

Calculate

Students should use numbers given in the question to work out the answer.

Choose

Select from a range of alternatives.

Compare

This requires the student to describe the similarities and/or differences between things, not just write about one.

Complete

Answers should be written in the space provided, for example, on a diagram, in spaces in a sentence or in a table.

Define

Specify the meaning of something.

Command Keywords

Describe

Students may be asked to recall some facts, events or process in an accurate way.

Design

Set out how something will be done.

Determine

Use given data or information to obtain and answer.

Draw

To produce, or add to, a diagram.

Estimate

Assign an approximate value.

Evaluate

Students should use the information supplied, as well as their knowledge and understanding, to consider evidence for and against when making a judgement.

Command Keywords

Explain

Students should make something clear, or state the reasons for something happening.

Give

Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description.

How/What/When/Where/Which/Who/Why

These can be used for more direct questions.

Identify

Name or otherwise characterise.

Justify

Use evidence from the information supplied to support an answer.

Label

Provide appropriate names on a diagram.

Command Keywords

Measure

Find an item of data for a given quantity.

Name

Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description. Often it can be answered with a single word, phrase or sentence.

Plan

Write a method.

Plot

Mark on a graph using data given.

Predict

Give a plausible outcome.

Show

Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.

Sketch

Draw approximately.

Command Keywords

Suggest

This term is used in questions where students need to apply their knowledge and understanding to a new situation.

Use

The answer must be based on the information given in the question. Unless the information given in the question is used, no marks can be given. In some cases students might be asked to use their own knowledge and understanding.

Write

Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description.

Calculation Questions

Long gone are the the questions where you gain full marks for just writing the correct answer.

Just like Maths - YOU NEED TO SHOW YOUR FORMULA and WORKING.

Following the "EVERY" checklist:

Write down **EVERY** whenever you see the command word "calculate". Then follow the steps below:

E- **Equation**: Write down the equation that you need to use

V- **Values**: Write down the values that you have been given in the question

E- **Enter values**: Enter the values into the equation written down

R- **Result**: Rearrange your equation if necessary and write down your result

Y- **Your units**: Write down the unit next to your result (if it has one)

Graph Questions

When drawing a graph, ensure you write the following word down and complete the steps:

Write down **SLAP** when you are expected to draw a graph.
S - **Scale** - Has you scale been drawn appropriately (i.e. as much as the graph paper as possible)
L - **Line** of best fit - Ensure you have drawn a line of best fit which CAN be a curve in science, in a sharp pencil.
A - **Axis** - Have you Axis been given a title, with units!?. Do not write X and Y Axis - use the headings given in the table of results, with the Independant variable, always going on the X axis
P - **Points** Plotted - ensure you have plotted your points carefully, with a sharp pencil.

6 marker questions

Underline the key content that has been given to you, including keywords and any figures.

Identify the command word of the 6 mark question.

Write 6 succinct bullet points

Ensure you have identified a **scientific keyword in each of your bullet points**.

NB. When "Comparing"...Always give discuss the similarities and differences between the same features for the subjects that you are comparing.

When "Evaluating"...Always give arguments for both sides, THEN give your opinion based on the information written.

Useful Documents

Combined Science

Biology:

Biology Paper 1

Biology Paper 2

Chemistry:

Chemistry Paper 1

Chemistry Paper 2

Physics:

Physics Paper 1

Physics Paper 2

Key Words Checklist

Useful Documents

Separate Sciences

Biology:

Biology Paper 1

Biology Paper 2

Chemistry:

Chemistry Paper 1

Chemistry Paper 2

Physics:

Physics Paper 1

Physics Paper 2