

Sparx Science GCSE Transition Assessment

Guidance and Information

What is the aim of the Transition Assessment?

The aim of the Transition Assessment is to highlight to teachers any knowledge gaps that students may have from Key Stage 3, particularly in topics which underpin large amounts of content delivered in the early part of Key Stage 4.

When should the Transition Assessment be used?

The assessment has been designed to be used once students have completed the majority of KS3 content, and before they start to work on KS4 content. This is flexible to the timing and context of your school as the content has been created to be appropriate for students from the end of year 8 to the end of year 9.

What topics are included in the Transition Assessment?

The assessment focuses on Key Stage 3 topics, which are prerequisites for many topics taught in Key Stage 4. We split this by students' knowledge of the core factual knowledge by subject and their working scientifically skills. There is a maximum of 60 marks available on Part A and 25 marks on Part B. The topics we include in each of these areas are:

Part A – Subject Knowledge		Part B – Working Scientifically	
Subject	Topic	Subject	Topic
Biology	Diffusion	Working Scientifically	Accuracy and precision
	Introduction to genetics		Conclusions
	Photosynthesis		Equipment
	Plant and animal cells		Graphs
	Respiration		Hazards, risks and precautions
Chemistry	Conservation of mass		Planning experiments
	Elements and compounds		Tables
	Mixtures and pure substances		Units
	The particle model		
	The Periodic table		
	Word and symbol equations		
Physics	Conservation of energy		
	Electricity		
	Energy stores and transfers		
	Forces		
	Light		

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Is the assessment tiered?

The assessment is not tiered; instead, we have written these assessments for all students, allowing for useful comparisons across an entire cohort. We use a combination of question types (including multiple choice, filling out tables and short-answer questions) and careful ramping to ensure all students can experience success in demonstrating what they do and don't know.

What reporting features will be available?

Alongside the assessment, we will be providing a QLA. This will allow teachers to generate student, class and cohort-level reports, providing students, teachers and school leaders with crucial insights on both a question and topic level.

As an alternative to the QLA we have also provided a feedback sheet that allows your students to self-complete, which signposts them to areas they need to work on. This supports giving students effective follow-up, but does not provide the data analytics supported by the QLA.