

GCSE Astronomy

"Astronomy
compels the soul to
look upwards and
leads us from this
world to another."
- Plato

GCSE Astronomy Introduction

This course has been developed to build on our natural fascination with the night sky and our continued exploration of the universe. Astronomy is constantly in the media in both fact and film which makes this course all the more engaging and relevant to students.



What are the course requirements?

- To be able to opt for the Astronomy course students need to be working at a competent level in science (On target to get a level 6 at GCSE), due to the demands of the course.

What about the content?

There are two main units :-

Naked eye Astronomy
Telescopic Astronomy



Naked Eye Astronomy

Paper 1: Naked-eye Astronomy (*Paper code: 1AS0/01)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

- Topic 1 – Planet Earth
- Topic 2 – The lunar disc
- Topic 3 – The Earth-Moon-Sun system
- Topic 4 – Time and the Earth-Moon-Sun cycles
- Topic 5 – Solar System observation
- Topic 6 – Celestial observation
- Topic 7 – Early models of the Solar System
- Topic 8 – Planetary motion and gravity

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations, graphical and extended-open-response questions.

Telescopic Astronomy

Paper 2: Telescopic Astronomy (Paper code: 1AS0/02)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

- Topic 9 – Exploring the Moon
- Topic 10 – Solar astronomy
- Topic 11 – Exploring the Solar System
- Topic 12 – Formation of planetary systems
- Topic 13 – Exploring starlight
- Topic 14 – Stellar evolution
- Topic 15 – Our place in the Galaxy
- Topic 16 – Cosmology

Assessment overview

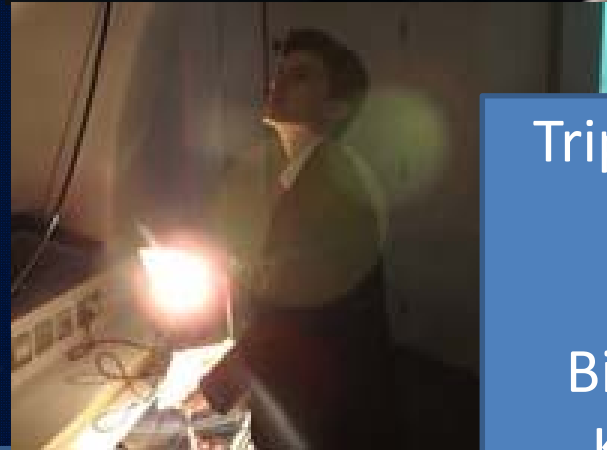
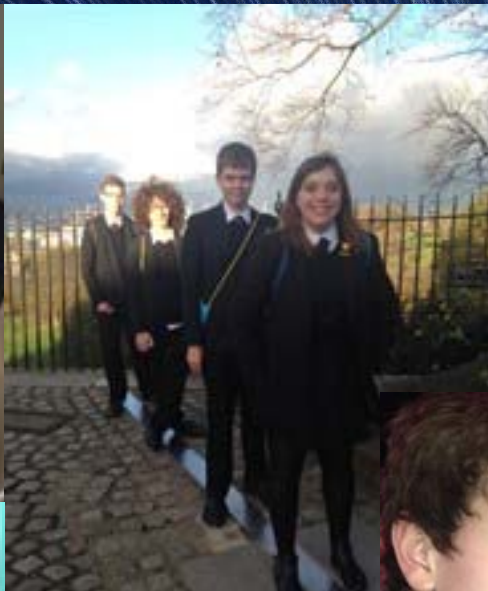
A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations, graphical and extended- open-response questions.



Advantages of GCSE Astronomy

- Develop curiosity and enthusiasm for Astronomy and to take an informed interest in current astronomical investigations, discoveries and space exploration
- Support learners who plan to take Physics at A level, The Astronomy GCSE Course is directly linked to Astrophysics option in year 13 at A Level.
- Astronomy GCSE looks brilliant on CV's. It is a course most usually found in grammar/private schools so we are lucky to be able to study it at Walton.
- Enhance science studies and learn about different aspects of science, alongside their other science courses

More reasons to choose Astronomy



Trips to Jodrell Bank,
Greenwich
Observatory,
Big Bang Fair, and
Keele University





So what do our students think?

“I have found GCSE Astronomy extremely interesting. It has motivated me to do extra research about the things that I have learned in lessons at home”

“I have found the learning outside the classroom aspect of Astronomy suits my learning style”

“We don't just learn about stars, we have done everything from craters to space exploration”

“I have felt fully supported while do GCSE Astronomy, I feel I can always ask for help whenever I need it”



The background of the slide features a silhouette of a telescope on a tripod in the lower-left corner. The sky is filled with several birds in flight. In the upper-right, a large, detailed image of the moon is visible against a dark, starry space background. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangular area.

Any more questions?

If you have any further queries, talk to Miss Turner tonight, or call the school and request to speak to her at a time to suit you.

Or

Students should feel free to discuss the course with their current Science teacher.