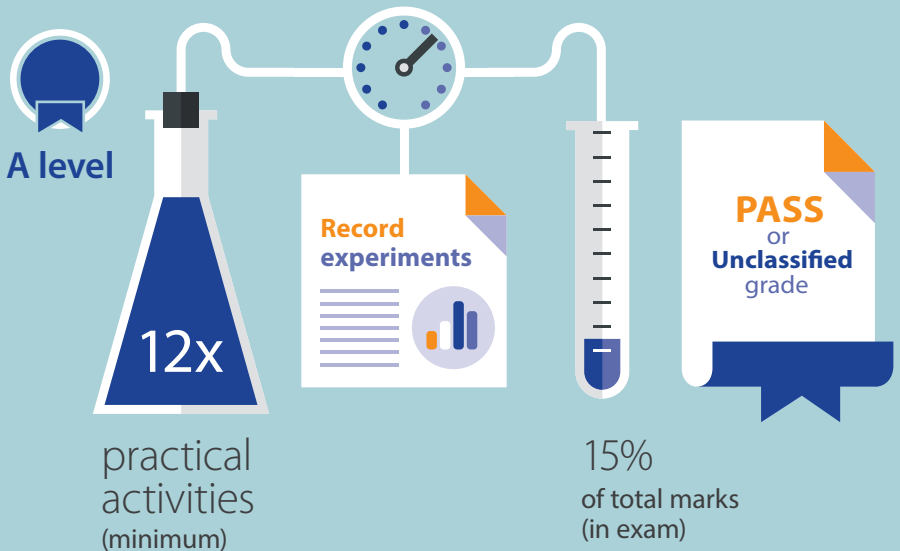
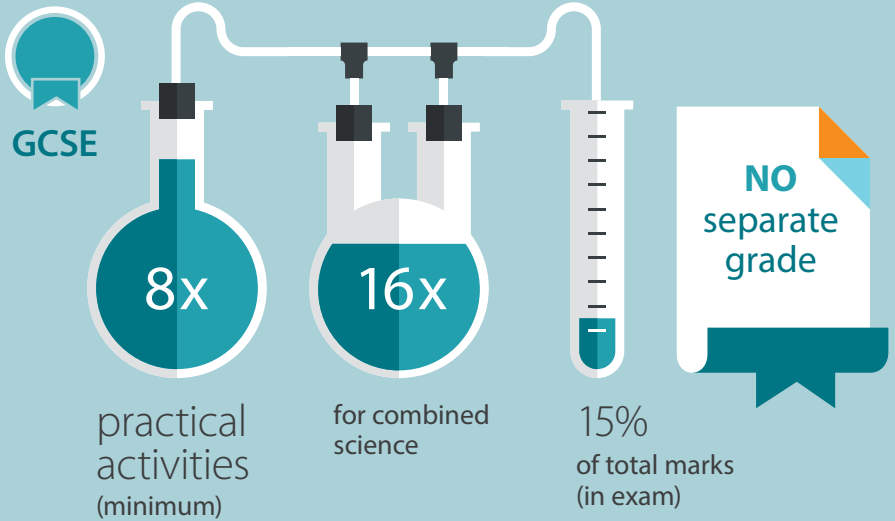


Improving science practicals



Improving science practicals

We are reforming science **GCSEs** and **A levels**. One of the main changes to both qualifications is how practicals will be assessed.

- Students do at least 8 practical activities (16 for combined science) covering specific apparatus and techniques
- Exam questions about practical work will make up at least 15% of the total marks for the qualification
- Students will be assessed on their knowledge, skills and understanding of practical work
- Students studying combined science will receive one of 17 possible grades, from 1-1, 1-2, 2-2, 2-3... to 9-9



- Students do at least 12 practical activities per subject
- Students will need to record their activities as they do them
- Written questions about practical work will make up at least 15% of the total marks for the qualification
- Students will receive a pass or unclassified grade for their practical skills at the end of the course
- Teachers will assess their students against criteria which are the same across all exam boards. A student must meet all of the criteria to pass



For both **GCSE** and **A level**

Schools will have to confirm they have taken reasonable steps to make sure that students complete all the defined practical activities. This reflects the critical importance of practical work within the science curriculum.