

**KS3  
Science:  
Year 7**

# Introduction

Welcome to the first year of your Oxford Home Schooling Key Stage Three Science course! This Introduction will tell you what you can expect from the course, and it will show you how to plan your science studies effectively.

The three years of the course will take you through all the material of Key Stage Three (KS3) of the National Curriculum for Science (England and Wales). You can find a full version of this at [www.ool.co.uk/sc70001](http://www.ool.co.uk/sc70001).

Past papers for this course (SATs tests) may be found at (e.g.) [www.ool.co.uk/sc70001b](http://www.ool.co.uk/sc70001b).

## Contents of the Introduction

	Page
Preliminary Notes	2
Arrangement of Lessons	2
The Structure within Lessons: How to Study	4
Twig Resources	5
SATs and TMAs	6
Practical Activities	7
Safety	7
Guide for Parents	8
Your Tutor	8



## Preliminary Notes

The course also covers the material for what used to be the UK Common Entrance (CE) Examination.

The Oxford Home Schooling Key Stage 3 (KS3) Science course is divided into three separate years, corresponding to Years 7, 8 and 9 in English secondary schools, and this file contains the Year 7 course. It has been set out in six modules, each of which contains a lesson each on Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Scientific Investigation. Each module concludes with a written Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA) to be sent to your Tutor for marking.

After studying this course, you will have developed a good understanding of how Science works, and of many of the key ideas in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. You will be very well placed to move on to any of the GCSE or IGCSE Science courses offered by the UK examination boards. You will also, we hope, have enjoyed the course so much that you will be looking forward enthusiastically to further scientific studies!

## Arrangement of Lessons

The references in the right hand column are to the units of the KS3 Science course specified on the National Curriculum website. The Scientific Investigations material is scattered widely throughout the units, so it has not been listed in the grid below.

<b>Module 1</b>	<b>Introducing Science</b>
Lesson 1	Biology: The Variety and Characteristics of Life
Lesson 2	Chemistry: Elements and Compounds
Lesson 3	Physics: Density, Floating and Sinking
Lesson 4	Scientific Investigations: Design <b>TMA A</b>
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>Cells, Energy, Change in State</b>
Lesson 5	Biology: Cells

Lesson 6	Chemistry: Change in State and Dissolving
Lesson 7	Physics: Energy
Lesson 8	Scientific Investigations: Carrying Out <b>TMA B</b>
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>Organisms, Mixtures, Energy Resources</b>
Lesson 9	Biology: Cells and Organisms
Lesson 10	Chemistry: Separating Mixtures – 1
Lesson 11	Physics: Energy Resources
Lesson 12	Scientific Investigations: Interpreting <b>TMA C</b>
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>Life Cycles, Mixtures, Forces</b>
Lesson 13	Biology: Life Cycles and Fertilisation
Lesson 14	Chemistry: Separating Mixtures – 2
Lesson 15	Physics: Forces
Lesson 16	Student Investigation: Design <b>TMA D</b>
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Reproduction, Acids and Alkalis, Light</b>
Lesson 17	Biology: Human Reproduction
Lesson 18	Chemistry: Acids and Alkalis
Lesson 19	Physics: Light
Lesson 20	Student Investigation: Carrying Out <b>TMA E</b>
<b>Module 6</b>	<b>Disease, Particles, the Solar System</b>
Lesson 21	Biology: Microbes and Disease
Lesson 22	Chemistry: More about Particles
Lesson 23	Physics: the Solar System
Lesson 24	Student Investigation: Interpreting <b>TMA F</b>
	Appendices

# The Structure within Lessons: How to Study

## Front Page

The front page of every lesson shows:

- the **title**
- **aim(s)** for the lesson. These tell you what you should have learned after having worked through the lesson.
- the **context**. This gives a brief summary of how this particular lesson relates to the rest of the course.


## Lessons

You should read all sections of the lesson carefully until you have a thorough understanding of the topics. Your parent or guardian will have their own guide, and they or your tutor will be able to help you with any areas of lessons that you find particularly difficult.

## Activities

Every lesson also has a range of questions, practical activities and internet activities to make the topics more exciting and meaningful. They look like this:

<b>Activity</b>	<p>Activities that involve a practical exercise. These activities may involve conducting simple experiments, or they may simply ask you to give closer thought to a topic introduced within the lesson. Please see the notes on practical work given below.</p> <p>Some of the practical activities will require adult supervision.</p>
-----------------	---

<b>Activity</b>	<p>Activities with empty boxes underneath are ones that involve writing a short answer or drawing a diagram. Answers to these activities are given at the end of the lesson.</p>
	

**Activity**

Activities that involve visiting a website. The website may contain online exercises, and you may need to use loudspeakers or a headset. All sites listed contain appropriate material for KS3, but they may link to sites that have material aimed at students at a more advanced level. The Parents' Guide contains notes on the use of the internet.

**Activity**

Optional activities that involve some kind of project work. You may choose to do these as extension work, or to follow up areas that you have found particularly interesting. Projects are not marked by Oxford Home Schooling, but should be looked over and commented on by your parent or guardian when you have finished them.

This kind of activity will help you to develop research, presentation and independent study skills. If you are short of time, then you can skip these activities.

Some optional activities are marked as “Extension Activities”. You can do these if you would like to try something a bit more challenging, or if you are particularly keen on the topic.

**Twig Resources**

Alongside the course materials, you have the opportunity to watch a number of films on the internet, all produced by a company called Twig. Welcome to Twig World!

These films cover almost every aspect of science at secondary level. They are full of information and memorable pictures.

To view the films, you will need an e-mail account, internet access and a password, supplied to you on enrolment. As you work through the lessons, you will come across Twig-links quite regularly, looking like this:



Log on to Twig and look at the film titled: **Nylon**

[www.ool.co.uk/1377mz](http://www.ool.co.uk/1377mz)

Nylon is one of the strongest polymers created by man. What makes it so durable?

To reach the film, you would either type the URL into your web-browser (here [www.ool.co.uk/1377mz](http://www.ool.co.uk/1377mz)) or search the Twig site ([www.twig-world.co.uk](http://www.twig-world.co.uk)) for 'Nylon'. Having watched it, you return to the lesson.

The films have been made to help you understand ideas by seeing them in the real world. Please bear in mind:

1. Some of the films, in part, will be too “advanced” for your needs, include ideas you have not yet covered, so don't worry if some bits seem a bit too hard.
2. If you find that a film is not helpful or interesting, stop watching it! It is possible to study the course successfully without watching *any* of the films.
3. Alongside each film, the Twig site offers various additional resources. You can download the words spoken in the film or tackle a quiz based on the film. These are optional extras if you have time.

Further notes on the use of the Twig films is given in the Parents' Guide.

## SATs and TMAs

### Self-Assessment Activities

At the end of every lesson, except those that have a TMA, you will find self-assessment activities. These are designed to test what you have learned in the lessons, and also to help you to discuss the different topics with your parent or guardian.

Suggested answers for these activities are given in the Parents' Guide to each module.

## Tutor-Marked Assignments

Every module is tested with a TMA, which will give you and your parent or guardian a very good idea of how well you are progressing. **You should answer all TMAs on paper**, *not* on the pages of the folder itself, as you will need to send them to your tutor. This gives you the opportunity to develop neat, well structured answers, as well as show what you have learned. It also means you do not lose your copy of the questions!

## Practical Activities

As a home student you will probably not have access to a fully equipped laboratory, but practical work is very important in Science, and is required by the National Curriculum. It is also fun!

Many practical activities are set in this course which can safely be done at home. They usually use equipment you are likely to have in the house already, but sometimes you will need to get hold of other things. At the start of each module you should look through the practical activities with a parent or guardian so that you can see exactly what equipment you will need.

In addition, there are several books on the market which describe lots of Science experiments to try out. You might think about getting one and doing the experiments that interest you. One good example is:

H J Press, *Science Experiments (A Little Giant Book)* (Sterling Publishing, 1998; ISBN: 139781402749902)

## Safety

Whenever doing practical work, safety is crucial. Before starting *any* practical, you should carry out a **risk assessment**. This means thinking about possible dangers in the work, and taking steps to reduce them if necessary. *Always discuss your risk assessment with your parent or guardian before starting work.*

Major risks are noted with each practical activity in the file, but your work should be supervised by an adult where necessary. Neither Oxford Home Schooling nor the author of this course accepts any responsibility for accidents that take place while performing these activities, or accidents or damage caused by the storage of apparatus and equipment. If there are younger

children at home, please note that they should not be involved in the practical work.

## Guide for Parents

The Parents' Guide for this course is in two parts.

The first, which follows this Introduction, contains extra information on the use of the internet, safety issues, and other general matters.

Then each module also has its own Parents' Guide, with information about each lesson of the module and answers to the Self-Assessment Questions. These answers should also provide a starting point for discussion; so that you can let your parent or guardian know how easy or difficult you found the course material. Your parent or guardian should detach these sections before you begin the course, so that they can use it to monitor your progress on a regular basis.

## Your Tutor

Your tutor is available not only to mark the appropriate TMAs, but also to offer help and advice when needed.

**And finally... very good luck with your studies!**

Philip West  
Copyright © Oxford Open Learning 2019