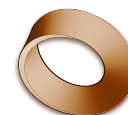


Y11 Physics (Set R) — GCSE

Course Expectations • 2026–2027



Teacher	Mr. Alex Rawson • a.rawson@stleonards-fife.org
Room	PH1
We meet	Week A • Tuesday • Period 4 (12:15–13:05) Week A • Friday • Period 3 (11:15–12:10) Week A • Friday • Period 4 (12:15–13:05) Week B • Monday • Period 6 (15:05–15:55)
Course page	rawsonvault.com/physics/aqa-gcse

1 What this course is

This is the second year of **AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)** — the physics third of the two GCSEs you leave with. Everything is examined in May/June 2027, and nothing has been banked before then.

Two things make this year different from Year 10. We finish the remaining content, and then the balance tips from learning physics to *proving* you can do it under timed conditions. Expect past papers, and expect me to mark them exactly as AQA would.

2 What we cover

	Topic	Required practicals	Paper
P1	Energy	RP14 specific heat capacity	1
P2	Electricity	RP15 resistance, RP16 I – V	1
P3	Particle Model of Matter	RP17 density	1
P4	Atomic Structure	—	1
P5	Forces	RP18 Hooke's law, RP19 Newton's 2nd	2
P6	Waves	RP20 wave speed, RP21 infrared	2
P7	Magnetism and Electromagnetism	—	2

Everything on the list is examinable regardless of when we taught it.

3 What you need

- Folder of notes and past-paper work — bring the whole thing, we go backwards often
- Scientific calculator, the same one you will use in the exam
- Pencil, pen, 30 cm ruler



Keep it organised in a ring binder with dividers

4 How you are assessed

Paper	Covers	Format
Physics Paper 1	P1–P4	70 marks
Physics Paper 2	P5–P7	70 marks

The two physics papers are 140 of the 420 marks that make up Combined Science. No coursework, no controlled assessment — it is the papers, and only the papers. The **eight required practicals** are examinable: method, data, and evaluation questions all appear.

Tier. Foundation covers grades 1–1 to 5–5, Higher covers 4–4 to 9–9. The tier decision is made later in the year on the evidence of mocks and classwork — we will talk about it individually, and there is no shame in either.

5 Homework

Expect one or two pieces a week — past-paper questions, timed sections, and targeted practice on whatever the last assessment showed was weak.

Marked to the AQA mark scheme. Treat every mark you lose as information: I would far rather you found a misconception in November than in the exam hall. **Show your working** — method marks are most of the paper.

6 Practical work

Less new practical work than Year 10, more *revisiting* the required practicals — usually on paper, from your own lab book, because that is the form the questions take.

Missed one from Year 10? Tell me now, in September, and we will fix it. In May it is too late to be useful.

Lab rules are unchanged: apparatus stays untouched until I say, goggles on when I say, and anything broken gets reported straight away rather than hidden.

7 Deadlines and late work

Deadlines are given in class and posted on the course page. Work handed in late is marked and returned, but recorded as late; more than a week late is recorded as not submitted.

If something is going wrong — illness, deadlines stacking up, anything at home — **come and tell me before the deadline**. An extension asked for in advance is nearly always fine. Asking afterwards is different — by then, I usually cannot say yes.

8 Absence

Being away does not remove the work. It only delays it. **It is your job to find out what you missed** — check the course page first, then ask me.

- **Lessons.** Notes and resources are on the course page. Catch up before the next lesson.
- **Assessments.** Take the assessment within three school days of coming back. Come and book a time yourself — this is your responsibility, and I will not remind you.
- **Extended absence.** See me on your first day back and we will agree a realistic plan and a set of dates.

9 Phones, laptops, and AI

Phones go straight in your locker when you arrive. They stay there for the whole school day, in every lesson.

Laptops are open when the task needs them and closed when it does not. I will say which.

AI tools are genuinely useful and you should learn to use them well. In this course:

- **Fine:** asking it to explain something you are stuck on, generating extra practice questions, checking your own reasoning after you have done the work yourself.
- **Not fine:** getting it to produce an answer, a paragraph, a method or code that you then hand in as your thinking.
- **Always:** write one line at the end saying what you used and what for. Declaring it is never penalised. Not declaring it is a problem.

The reason is simple. The assessment has no AI in it. The moment you actually need to understand something has no AI in it either. If an AI does the work for you, you lose the time you needed to get better at physics.

10 Academic honesty

You may work together — you learn faster when you do. But **the writing must be yours, done on your own.**

- Write down who you worked with, on the work itself.
- Cite anything you used — book, website, video, diagram, dataset. Putting it in your own words still needs a citation: you are borrowing the idea even when you change the words.
- An AI-written answer that you did not think through is a mark you will not have in the exam hall. This year, that trade is a bad one.

11 In the classroom

- Arrive on time and ready to start.
- Ask the question. Someone else has it too, and I would rather stop the lesson than let you fall behind.
- Wrong answers said out loud are how the lesson works. Nobody is laughed at in here.
- Leave the lab ready for the next class.

12 How to do well this year

Past papers, marked honestly against the scheme, are worth more than any amount of rereading. Do them in pen, to time, without the answers in front of you — then work out precisely why you lost each mark.

Learn the equations. Know which are given and which are not. Ask early: there is no version of this year where a question you sat on since October is easier to fix in April.

You have done nine months of this already. This year is about turning what you know into marks.