

Science in Society

Is this the right subject for you?

Have you enjoyed science at GCSE?

Did you enjoy debating scientific issues during your GCSE?

Are you interested in how scientific issues are presented in the media?

Do you want to carry out your own research into a piece of scientific literature?

Science in Society is an excellent course choice both for those students studying another science at BHASVIC and for those who wish to continue with some scientific study alongside courses in other areas. The focus of the course is not on technical scientific knowledge, instead on the application of the knowledge you have gained at GCSE. If you would like to be able to interpret the science contained in a New Scientist article or to understand the 'Bad Science' column in The Guardian then this course would be of interest to you.

What is the course content?

In the AS year you will learn how to apply your GCSE Science knowledge to new situations. You will develop skills in communicating scientific facts and become confident in discussing and evaluating both your own work and those of others. Topics covered include: the germ theory of disease, evolution, medicines, pollution and the position of planet Earth in the context of the solar system. You will also write a critical account of scientific reading and produce a research report into a topical scientific issue.

In the second year you will use reasoned debate to demonstrate and apply your knowledge of scientific principles and ideas within the field of contemporary science and technology. Topics covered include cells, chemicals and the mind, nature and nurture, global climate change and sustaining the variety of life on Earth. There is no coursework in the second year; instead you will gain skills in evaluating a scientific or technological issue which is examined through written examination using source material such as newspaper or New Scientist articles.

How will your work be assessed?

AS Level Science in Society (AQA)

One written exam – Exploring key scientific issues (60% of AS)

Internal assessment – Reading and writing about science (40% of AS)

A Level Science in Society (AQA)

Two written exams:

Exploring scientific issues (60% of A2)

Case study of scientific issues (40% of A2)

What are the entry requirements?

The general entry requirements for studying at Advanced level apply, and must include a minimum of grade C in double science or two separate sciences plus a minimum of grade C in English GCSE.

Other information

In Science in Society you will be supported to develop research skills and encouraged to formulate your own ideas and opinions and substantiate these with scientific knowledge. It is a rapidly changing course as topical scientific issues are studied; you can expect to be studying breaking news stories on a regular basis.

10.11

**Science in
Society
AS/A Level**