Top 10 most common exam topics

Spec points ranked by their share of marks in past papers, June 2018–2026

AQA · COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY · FOUNDATION

Biology

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	4.7.2.1	R347, R618	Levels of organisation	8.0%	9/9
2	4.2.2.1	R154, R244, R615, R667, R800	The human digestive system	6.1%	8/9
3	4.5.2	R213, R936	Structure and function	5.9%	7/9
4	4.4.2.1	R268, R336	Aerobic and anaerobic respiration	5.4%	8/9
5	4.2.2.2	R350, R583, R652, R806	The heart and blood vessels	5.3%	8/9
6	4.1.1.2	R848	Animal and plant cells	5.2%	8/9
7	4.4.1.2	R732, R979	Rate of photosynthesis	5.0%	7/9
8	4.2.3.2	R318, R419, R547, R600, R973	Plant organ system	4.3%	7/9
9	4.2.2.3	R673	Blood	3.7%	8/9
10	4.7.2.2	R153, R824	How materials are cycled	3.7%	7/9

Chemistry

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	5.5.1.1	R833	Energy transfer during exothermic and endothermic reactions	4.7%	9/9
2	5.6.1.2	R771	Factors which affect the rates of chemical reactions	4.5%	9/9
3	5.10.1.2	R208	Potable water	4.4%	9/9
4	5.3.1.3	R533	Mass changes when a reactant or product is a gas	4.3%	8/9
5	5.4.1.2	R981	The reactivity series	4.3%	6/9
6	5.8.1.3	R638, R720	Chromatography	4.1%	6/9
7	5.6.1.1	R771	Calculating rates of reactions	3.5%	6/9
8	5.4.2.2	R142, R495	Neutralisation of acids and salt production	3.3%	8/9
8	5.4.2.3	R885	Soluble salts	3.3%	8/9
10	5.4.3.4	R279	Electrolysis of aqueous solutions	3.3%	7/9

Physics

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	6.6.1.2	R103, R452, R569, R803	Properties of waves	6.5%	9/9
2	6.5.4.2.2	R138, R597	Newton's Second Law	5.8%	9/9
3	6.3.1.1	R136, R161, R252	Density of materials	4.7%	7/9
4	6.5.3	R337, R494, R598	Forces and elasticity	4.4%	5/9
5	6.1.3	R476, R496, R911	National and global energy resources	4.3%	9/9
6	6.4.2.1	R326, R549, R694, R937	Radioactive decay and nuclear radiation	3.8%	9/9
7	6.2.1.3	R779	Current, resistance and potential difference	3.7%	8/9
8	6.5.4.1.5	R112, R176, R663, R760, R799	Acceleration	3.6%	8/9
9	6.1.1.2	R704, R751, R802	Changes in energy	3.4%	9/9
10	6.2.1.4	R238, R658, R959	Resistors	2.9%	9/9

Share of marks: proportion of all marks on these papers from questions assessing this spec point.
Years tested: exam years with marks on the point. Equal marks are ordered by years tested.

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Spec points ranked by their share of marks in past papers, June 2018–2026

AQA · COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY · HIGHER

Biology

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	4.4.2.1	R268, R336	Aerobic and anaerobic respiration	8.9%	9/9
2	4.7.2.1	R347, R618	Levels of organisation	7.6%	7/9
3	4.2.2.1	R154, R244, R615, R667, R800	The human digestive system	7.3%	8/9
4	4.4.1.2	R732, R979	Rate of photosynthesis	5.6%	8/9
5	4.5.2	R213, R936	Structure and function	5.1%	6/9
6	4.4.1.1	R827	Photosynthetic reaction	4.9%	8/9
7	4.2.2.2	R350, R583, R652, R806	The heart and blood vessels	4.8%	9/9
8	4.1.1.2	R848	Animal and plant cells	4.1%	9/9
9	4.7.2.2	R153, R824	How materials are cycled	3.9%	6/9
10	4.7.3.5	R325	Global warming	3.8%	8/9

Chemistry

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	5.10.1.2	R208	Potable water	4.0%	8/9
2	5.5.1.1	R833	Energy transfer during exothermic and endothermic reactions	4.0%	6/9
3	5.4.3.4	R279	Electrolysis of aqueous solutions	3.9%	7/9
4	5.3.2.2	R624	Amounts of substances in equations	3.8%	9/9
5	5.4.2.3	R885	Soluble salts	3.8%	7/9
6	5.3.2.1	R223	Moles	3.7%	7/9
7	5.1.2.6	R580, R640, R715	Group 7	3.7%	7/9
8	5.6.1.1	R771	Calculating rates of reactions	3.6%	8/9
9	5.3.1.3	R533	Mass changes when a reactant or product is a gas	3.6%	6/9
10	5.4.2.2	R142, R495	Neutralisation of acids and salt production	3.3%	8/9
10	5.9.3.1	R119, R221	Atmospheric pollutants from fuels	3.3%	8/9

Physics

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	6.5.4.2.2	R138, R597	Newton's Second Law	6.8%	9/9
2	6.5.4.1.5	R112, R176, R663, R760, R799	Acceleration	6.6%	9/9
3	6.5.3	R337, R494, R598	Forces and elasticity	5.3%	7/9
4	6.6.1.2	R103, R452, R569, R803	Properties of waves	5.2%	8/9
5	6.3.1.1	R136, R161, R252	Density of materials	4.8%	9/9
6	6.4.2.1	R326, R549, R694, R937	Radioactive decay and nuclear radiation	4.4%	9/9
7	6.1.1.3	R544	Energy changes in systems	4.1%	7/9
8	6.2.1.3	R779	Current, resistance and potential difference	4.1%	5/9
9	6.2.4.1	R773	Power	3.8%	8/9
10	6.2.1.4	R238, R658, R959	Resistors	3.7%	9/9

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Top 10 most common exam topics

Spec points ranked by their share of marks in past papers, June 2018–2026

AQA · SEPARATE SCIENCES · HIGHER

Biology

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	4.2.2.1	R154, R244, R615, R667, R800	The human digestive system	9.4%	9/9
2	4.4.2.1	R268, R336	Aerobic and anaerobic respiration	7.4%	9/9
3	4.7.2.1	R347, R618	Levels of organisation	6.0%	8/9
4	4.4.1.1	R827	Photosynthetic reaction	5.7%	9/9
5	4.4.1.2	R732, R979	Rate of photosynthesis	5.3%	9/9
6	4.2.3.2	R318, R419, R547, R600, R973	Plant organ system	4.3%	8/9
7	4.5.4.1	R201, R782	Control and coordination	3.9%	7/9
8	4.2.2.6	R505	The effect of lifestyle on some non-communicable diseases	3.7%	6/9
9	4.4.2.3	R434	Metabolism	3.6%	9/9
10	4.2.2.2	R350, R583, R652, R806	The heart and blood vessels	3.6%	8/9

Chemistry

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	4.6.1.1	R771	Calculating rates of reactions	4.4%	9/9
2	4.4.2.5	R297, R539	Titrations	4.3%	9/9
3	4.5.1.1	R833	Energy transfer during exothermic and endothermic reactions	3.9%	8/9
4	4.4.1.2	R981	The reactivity series	3.7%	9/9
5	4.3.2.1	R223	Moles	3.3%	9/9
6	4.1.1.1	R333, R447, R671, R711, R994	Atoms, elements and compounds	3.1%	9/9
7	4.8.1.3	R638, R720	Chromatography	3.0%	6/9
8	4.6.1.2	R771	Factors which affect the rates of chemical reactions	2.9%	9/9
9	4.3.1.2	R195, R497	Relative formula mass	2.8%	9/9
10	4.3.4	R262	Using concentrations of solutions in mol/dm^3	2.8%	8/9
10	4.4.3.4	R279	Electrolysis of aqueous solutions	2.8%	8/9

Physics

Rank	Spec point	Sparx topics	Topic	Share of marks	Years tested
1	4.1.1.2	R704, R751, R802	Changes in energy	5.8%	9/9
2	4.2.1.3	R779	Current, resistance and potential difference	5.6%	8/9
3	4.5.6.1.5	R112, R176, R663, R760, R799	Acceleration	5.0%	8/9
4	4.5.3	R337, R494, R598	Forces and elasticity	4.4%	7/9
5	4.1.3	R476, R496, R911	National and global energy resources	3.3%	8/9
6	4.1.1.3	R544	Energy changes in systems	3.1%	8/9
7	4.6.1.2	R103, R452, R569, R803	Properties of waves	3.0%	6/9
8	4.2.4.1	R773	Power	2.9%	9/9
8	4.2.4.2	R144, R145, R490, R815	Energy transfers in everyday appliances	2.9%	9/9
10	4.3.1.1	R136, R161, R252	Density of materials	2.9%	8/9

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