

GCSE Assessment objectives

Source: adapted from Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), 2005.

Assessment objective	Is the objective addressed by . . .		
	Activity 1 Vultures: the next dodos?	Activity 2 Tsunami warning?	Activity 3 Shrinking Everest?
AO1 Knowledge and understanding of science and how science works			
a) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the scientific facts, concepts, techniques and terminology in the specification			
b) show understanding of how scientific evidence is collected and its relationship with scientific explanations and theories			
c) show understanding of how scientific knowledge and theories change over time and how these changes are validated			
AO2 Application of skills, knowledge and understanding			
a) apply concepts, develop arguments or draw conclusions related to familiar and unfamiliar situations			
b) plan a scientific task, such as a practical procedure, testing an idea, answering a question, or solving a problem			
c) show understanding of how decisions about science and technology are made in different situations, including contemporary situations, and those raising ethical issues			
d) evaluate the impact of scientific developments or processes on individuals, communities or the environment			

AO3 Practical, enquiry and data-handling skills			
a) carry out practical tasks safely and skilfully			
b) evaluate the methods they use when collecting first-hand and secondary data			
c) analyse and interpret qualitative and quantitative data from different sources			
d) consider the validity and reliability of data in presenting and justifying conclusions			