

Getting Started At Preparing For A Level Physics.

The following is a list of things you can be doing now to help you prepare for studying A Level Physics:

- Read the 'A Level Physics Welcome Booklet 2020'. This talks you through the structure of the A level course and explains the differences from GCSE and what you can do to maximise your chances of success.
- Print out the AQA A Level Physics specification:
<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-7407-7408-SP-2015.PDF>
- Take a look at the 'A Level Physics Equation Sheet'. This is given to you when you sit your A level exams and contains all of the equations that you are expected to recognise and be able to use by the end of the course.
- Read through the 'A Level Physics Practical Guidance', which gives an outline of some of the techniques for dealing with data that we will be using in A level physics.
- Revise your understanding of the GCSE topics which are most relevant to year 12. These are Forces, Electricity, Waves and also Atomic Structure.
- Have a go at the 'A Level Physics Taster Questions'. I have put together four sets of these, on the topics of Forces & Motion, Electricity, Waves and Atomic Structure. These are genuine multiple choice questions from A level papers. Some of them you may be able to answer easily using your GCSE knowledge. Some of them are more challenging and will require quite a bit of thought. The mark scheme can be found at the end of each set.
- Try this book which aims to bridge the gap between GCSE and A level
(https://www.amazon.co.uk/Head-Start-level-Physics-Level/dp/1782942815/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=headstart+a+level+physics&qid=1584799214&sr=8-1)
- Try to get a copy of this book (https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Physics-Essential-Word-Dictionary/dp/0860033775/ref=sr_1_29?keywords=dictionary+a+level+physics&qid=1584799358&sr=8-29), which is a dictionary of terms from physics aimed specifically at A level students. It seems to be out of print now, but you may be able to get hold of a second hand copy.
- There are, of course, numerous popular science books that cover exciting areas of modern physics. I could recommend many of these, but, for now, I would suggest John Gribbin as an author to try (https://www.amazon.co.uk/Six-Impossible-Things-Mysteries-Subatomic/dp/1785784994/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=john+gribbin&qid=1584799499&sr=8-1)
- Take a look at the excellent documentary, Particle Fever, which is all about the building of the LHC and the discovery of the Higgs boson (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXAsrZePM&list=PLgda2rOhCmWCik7MJdxrJonNnCfi95VwQ&index=2>)

I hope you enjoy preparing for A Level Physics.

Best wishes

Mr Mitchell

(Subject Leader: Physics)