

St. Catherine Academy



Science Department

Factsheet for incoming 3rd Year students

Program Overview

Why Science?

- Science allows us to acquire a view of the world which complements and contrasts with other perspectives of the world.
- A good scientific foundation will help citizens of the Caribbean to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing society and contribute to its enrichment.
- The application of scientific principles is of prime importance in identifying, assessing and realizing the potential of the resources of the various Caribbean territories.
- It is also beneficial to the ordinary citizen for everyday living.

*People love
to wonder,*

and that...

*is the
seed of
science.*

Program of Study- Academic Science

Option I Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Option II Chemistry, Biology/Physics, POB/Economics

Pre-requisites:

- Grades:
80% average in:
 - Integrated Science
 - Math
 - English Language
 - English Literature
- Teacher Recommendations

Course Activities

- Lectures: 3 Lecture sessions per week (6 per cycle)
- Practicals: 1 Lab session per week (2 per cycle)
 - School Based Assessment (SBA)
 - Ongoing
 - 10 assessments per year (min. 20 for 2 years)

What is School Based Assessment (SBA)

- Formative Assessment
- School Based
- Grading criteria set by school using CXC guidelines
- Series of assessed practical activities
- Contributes a 20% of overall CXC exam grade
- Criteria based
- Moderated by CXC via samples submitted in May Year 4

Why SBA?

- SBA is an integral part of a student's assessment
- Allows students to obtain marks from the competencies they develop and demonstrate in their SBA assignments
- These marks contribute to the final marks and grades awarded to students in the examination
- SBA provides an opportunity to individualize a part of the curriculum to meet needs of students
- Facilitates feedback at various stages of their experience
- Helps build self confidence of students as they proceed in their studies.
- Facilitates the development of essential investigative and practical skills

SBA Practical Skills Assessed:

Observation/Recording/Reporting (ORR)
Measurement/Manipulation (M/M)
Drawing (DRW) [Biology only]
Analysis and Interpretation (AI)
Planning/Designing (P/D)

SBA Notes

- Minimum total of 18 graded assessments/practicals
- Assessments begin in Year 3
- Lab Manual (preferably hard-covered) required for practical assessments
- Year 3 grades due Oct (Sem I) Year 4
- Year 4 grades due March/April (Sem II) Year 4

*Discovery
consists of seeing
what everybody
has seen and
thinking what
nobody thought*

Program of Study-

- General Studies Human and Social Biology
- Academic Business Human and Social Biology

Human and Social Biology Option

- Relatively new option (6th year)
- Study of Biology with emphasis on the HUMAN BODY and SOCIAL issues.
- Good foundation for Nursing Career
- NO SBA....yet!
- Strong CXC Passes (90% +)

Students in the Academic Science option do not take this subject as a course but are prepared for the exam by the addition of additional material in their Biology course.

Challenges of Courses/Subjects

- Syllabus Coverage
- SBA Labs

Expectation of Students

- Dedication
- Persistence
- Discipline
- Hard Work
- Extra Work

Course requirements;

- Textbooks/Resources:
As listed in Year 3 Booklist
- Syllabus for each Science subject
- Lab manual for each Science subject

Science Department Faculty

- Mrs. Alderita Marin CXC Asst. Examiner
Human & Social Biology
HOD-Math Department
- Mr. Jude Lizama CXC Asst. Examiner
Biology SBA
HOD-Science Department
- Mrs. Patricia Andrewin CXC Asst. Chief Examiner
Chemistry
- Mr. Reginald Rodriguez CXC Examiner (Table Leader)
Chemistry
HOD-Science Department
- Mr. Glenford Dawson Physics
CXC Physics Resource Facilitator
- Ms. Shawn Gonzales Biology
Human and Social Biology

SCA Science Department Performance 2003-2009 (% Passes)

Subject	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Biology	100	100	97	94	90	100	95
Physics	100	100	97	96	67	96	100
Chemistry	96	94	77	90	95	100	98
Integrated Science	100	100	100	100	---	100	100
Human and Social Biology	---	---	98	100	92	100	100

Noteworthy 2009 Science Department accomplishment

SCA Science student **Virginia Hsu** won the Belize Individual Subject Award for Science for her stellar performance in Biology, Human and Social Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

*The Universe
is full of
magical things
patiently
waiting for
our wits to
go sharper*