

# GCSE SCIENCE

**Virtual communities**

Facilitation pack

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# About this resource

We know that your time is limited, so we've designed this resource to make it easy for you to share what you've learned from our virtual community event.

This resource will enable you to deliver your own CPD session for your colleagues and it includes activities and resources linked to the virtual community topics to:

- remind you of the topics covered during the event so you can brief colleagues or run a similar session with your team
- provide follow on activities and discussion areas for you and your team so the content can be taken further and applied or embedded in your school or college.

## Resources available

- A copy of the PowerPoint from the meeting with notes for the presenter.
- Follow on pathways showing the topics covered during the meeting and ways to develop them.
- A pre and post meeting confidence check questionnaire to benchmark confidence of colleagues around the topic of your session.

We hope this gives you the opportunity to make the most of the time you invested in attending the event.

# Follow-on pathways

This section takes topics, discussion or activities from the virtual communities meeting and provides suggestions of areas for development and follow-on activities you can do with your colleagues.

## Activity 1: How well do you know AO2?

Individually, or as a group, discuss the following questions:

1. What does AO2 assess in general?
2. What percentage of marks for an award are allocated to AO2?
3. How could you differentiate an AO2 question from an AO1 question?
4. Which of the following would assess AO2, and why?

- Plotting a bar chart from a table of data
- Applying a formula to do a calculation
- Carrying out a life cycle assessment
- Describing the pattern on a graph
- Evaluating a student's conclusion from experimental results
- Using a Punnett square diagram
- Stating the word equation for combustion of methane
- Using the particle model to explain changes of state
- Identifying errors in a practical method
- Using a key to identify organisms in a stream

## Activity 2: Bringing unfamiliar contexts into your scheme of work

Use the resource in Activity 3 of the AQA [Focus on Success: AO2](#) pack for this group activity.

In subject groups:

- Choose a topic from your own scheme of work that you feel would benefit students by introducing an unfamiliar context.
- Discuss where you could use examples of contexts to use in the lessons in that topic where the content could be used in an everyday context.
- Are there opportunities for introducing the opportunity to model answering questions in unfamiliar context?

# Health checks

Rate the area of development statements according to your confidence where 0 is not confident at all and 5 is very confident.

## Before the meeting

Objective	Rating	Reasons/notes
<b>Objective 1:</b> I understand the criteria for assessing AO2		
<b>Objective 2:</b> I understand the ways in which AO2 can be assessed		
<b>Objective 3:</b> I know how to prepare students to answer questions in unfamiliar contexts		
<b>Objective 4:</b> I know how to use exam questions to model recognising the science behind a context to support student understanding		

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## After the meeting

Objective	Rating	Reasons/notes
<b>Objective 1:</b> I understand the criteria for assessing AO2		
<b>Objective 2:</b> I understand the ways in which AO2 can be assessed		
<b>Objective 3:</b> I know how to prepare students to answer questions in unfamiliar contexts		
<b>Objective 4:</b> I know how to use exam questions to model recognising the science behind a context		

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# Planning for the future

## Questions for consideration

- What areas have you identified as strengths using the confidence check?
- How might you develop these further?
- What areas have you identified as areas for development?
- How might you build confidence in these areas?
- How might some of the learning from the virtual communities/CPD session impact your department?
- What changes could you make based on outcomes of the CPD session?



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# Notes

## Contact us

Our friendly team will be happy to support you between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

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