

Polish system of chemical education

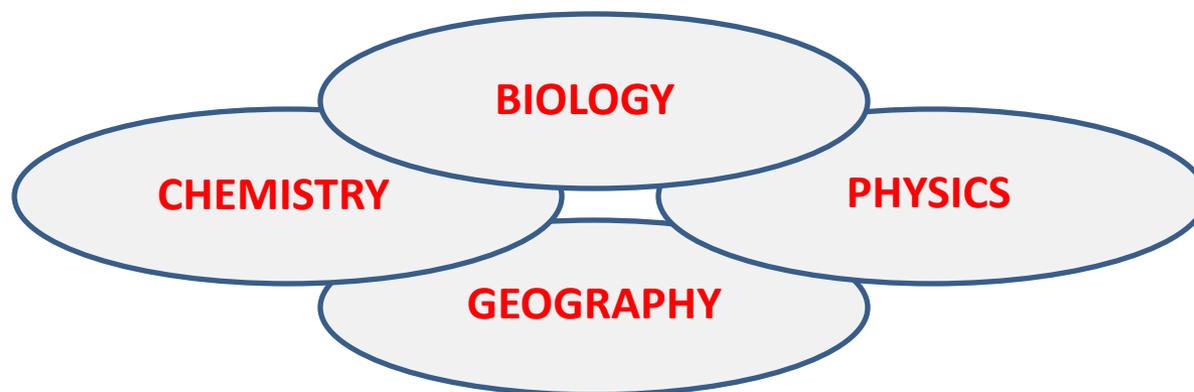


Adam Mickiewicz University
Faculty of Chemistry

➤ 1th and 2nd Education Stage – Primary School

At the age of 7 children start their education in a compulsory 6-year school. During the first three years lessons are conducted in the form of mainstream education supervised by one teacher.

In classes 4-6 school subjects are taught by different teachers. It is when pupils first encounter chemistry during their science lesson (this subject combines issues so far attributed to biology, geography, physics and chemistry)



In class 6 pupils write a test verifying their knowledge and skills, which is the same for all pupils. The results of this test do not determine the fact of finishing primary school or being admitted to gymnasium (middle school).

➤ IIIrd Education Stage

Students attending gymnasium are at the age of 13-16. Chemical education in gymnasium included 4 hours in an education cycle. It may be dealt with in different ways depending on school's possibilities, teacher's preferences and students' needs. Thus, chemistry classes can take place

- in a one- subject system
- in a subject-group system – if the syllabus of all subjects combined has been covered
- in a mixed system – where part of the classes e.g. is conducted in the classroom and the rest of the classes is combined with another science subject s outside classroom classes.

The person who decides about the number of hours of particular subject and the way of teaching is the head-teacher.

Learning in gymnasium is finished with a gymnasium exam which consists of 3 parts: humanistic, language and science. The exam results do not determine the fact of finishing gymnasium. However, they have influence on secondary school admittance.

➤ IVth Education Stage – Secondary Schools

Secondary schools comprise : 3-year liceum (high school), 3-year liceum profilowane (profile high school), 4-year technical secondary school and 2- or 3-year szkoła zawodowa (technician vocational school).

Chemical education in liceum/profiled liceum /technical secondary school basic level education includes 3 hours in educational cycle, while advanced level – 7 hours in educational cycle.

After graduating from liceum/profiled liceum / technical secondary school, you can get matura (high school diploma) after passing matura exam (it has replaced entrance exams at university). At matura exam students take compulsory subject (Polish language, mathematics and a modern foreign language) and optional subjects (maximum six). All the exams are conducted in written form, whereas Polish, native language of national minorities and modern foreign languages are also conducted in oral form.

➤ Higher Education/Universities

Chemical education may be continued at universities (at both universities and technical universities) at :

- Higher vocational studies (first –cycle programme)
- Second-cycle Master's degree programmes

Some universities offer Master's degree in one-cycle programmes. Graduating from Master's degree programme entitles you to further postgraduate studies (PhD degree). Adam Mickiewicz University 's faculty of chemistry offers first-cycle programme studies, second-cycle Master's degree programme studies and postgraduate studies (PhD degree).

