

Science: We Want More Space!

This is one of a multi-part series on changes that teachers would like to see in their Key Stage 4 curriculum! Over time, one short post for each subject will be released, and you can see all of the currently-released subjects over on the main page [here](#).

So, what are the changes?

Out: Using Resources

In: Space into Combined Science

Just 21% of science teachers say they are happy with the size of their curriculum and 29% would like to see a significant reduction in the amount of content they have to teach.

Nearly four-in-five science teachers would like to see a reduction in the amount of content they are teaching at GCSE

Question asked: "Would you like to see a reduction in the amount of content that you are expected to cover in the KS4 curriculum in your main subject?"



Question answered by 989 teachers on 07/10/2022 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

- Yes, a significant reduction
- Yes, a slight reduction
- No, I would keep the same amount of content at KS4

Removing Topics

There were many different suggestions as to what Science teachers would remove from their curriculum if they could.

Many Science teachers specifically called out C10 - an area of the Chemistry curriculum called 'Using Resources'. From my reading, this topic is about the Earth's resources, drinking water and the Haber process. The comments we received about this was mainly that it was quite

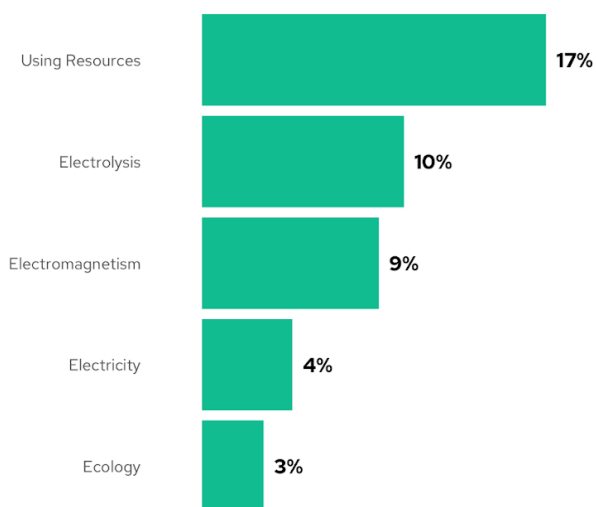
boring!

Electrolysis also gathered 10% of the vote, with Electromagnetism the most popular Physics topic to get rid of and Ecology among the Biology topics.

Someone quite rightly asked how teachers of different specialisms voted. They mainly stayed within the realms of their own specialism. For example, more Physics teachers voted to remove Electromagnetism than anything else and Chemistry teachers would remove Using Resources. Biology teachers were a bit more undecided, with votes for topics across all three sciences.

Top five topic areas that Science teachers would like to remove from their KS4 curriculum

Question asked: "If you could *remove* one topic area from the KS4 curriculum of your main subject, what would it be?"



Question answered by 514 Science teachers on 17/12/2022

Adding Topics

What topics Science teachers would add was a much easier question for many to answer.

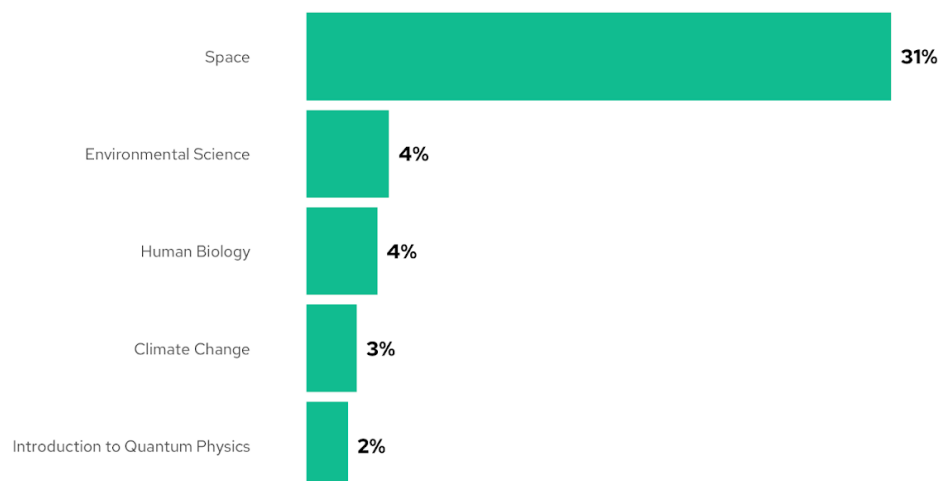
Space! ■■

Or, to be more precise, bring topics to do with Space into the curriculum for combined sciences. Many teachers said that this topic was one their students were most interested in and it was a missed opportunity to engage the students.

Interestingly, despite "Using Resources" being the topic that many would like to remove from the curriculum, topics such as "Environmental Science" and "Climate Change" were also frequently mentioned by teachers. I don't think this is teachers contradicting each other, rather it could be suggesting that the current curriculum needs to be brought up to date in a fast-moving area.

Top five topic areas that Science teachers would like to add to their KS4 curriculum

Question asked: "Imagine there was space in the KS4 curriculum of your main subject for an additional topic area. If you were in charge, what topic area would you *add*?"



Question answered by 513 Science teachers on 17/12/2022

While space was the most requested Physics option, more on Human Biology was one of the most requested Biology-based topics. There were a range of topics within this, from more on the musculoskeletal system to better understanding pregnancy.

Also mentioned were ways to improve students' investigations and increase their scientific literacy to better understand science in the media.

What do you think the most important aspects of Environmental Science are to teach to students? Be sure to let us know via email hello@teachertapp.co.uk or on Twitter [@TeacherTapp](https://twitter.com/TeacherTapp)!