



5.13

Writing scientific articles for different audiences

Briefing sheet

Part 1

You will write an article for a magazine or website which is aimed at GCSE students. Information on the structure of your article is given below, and there is space for you to make notes on the scientific topic and content that you are writing about which your teacher will cover.

Structure of the article

The main body of the article should be written in a style that any GCSE student should be able to understand. You should explain the background to the topic, and why it is important to them and to the rest of us. It is helpful to include images, and to keep sentences / paragraphs concise and punchy. The article should be between 500 and 1000 words long.

At the end of the article, you should write a section called ‘Science in-depth’ where you present advanced-level aspects of the topics, including equations and formulae if appropriate and examples of calculations if this is relevant. You should still try to write this in a way that a bright GCSE student will be able to understand.

The topic and scientific content

The topic your article is going to be on is:

You must cover the following material from your A-level specification:

Further requirements of your work (e.g. illustrations, formulae, equations) are:

Part 2

You will write a 100-150 word summary of this article to explain to primary school students why this topic is important to them. You should include some simple scientific ideas and one illustration. (If you are unsure what level these students are at, do some Internet research on the material examined in Key Stage 2 Science SATS.)

Write three main points summarising the differences in writing for these two audiences. Discuss this in your class.