

# A Guide to Citations and References for A Level Science

Whenever you carry out research to complete a piece of work, you should always include references for the sources of information that you have used. This ensures that your research can be verified and that due credit is given to the author(s) of the original source material.

There are many different ways to cite and reference sources of information. For A level science qualifications, you do not need to follow a particular referencing system. As long as other people could use your references to find the sources of your information, you can use any method. A commonly accepted method of referencing is outlined below.

You may find this guide particularly helpful when citing sources you are using to inform the planning of, or conclusions for, required practical activities.

## How to Reference Your Sources of Information

1. List every source of information you have used at the end of your work. Ideally, you should include at least two reliable sources of information.
2. Each reference listed should inform the reader:
  - **who** wrote the original publication;
  - **when** the original publication was published;
  - **what** the original publication is called;
  - **where** the original publication can be found.
3. If you are directly quoting, paraphrasing or referring to a source of information within the main body of your text, you could also include a citation. This is where you include the name of the author(s) and the year of publication in brackets after the quote or the section of text referring to the publication.

### Examples

1. "Modifications will add to the beautiful and harmonious diversity of nature."  
(Darwin, 1859)
2. The three laws of motion outlined in *Principia* (Newton, 1687) are the foundation of our understanding of dynamics.

If you use a citation in this way, you should also include the full reference for the source in your reference list.

Remember, each reference you list should follow the format:

**Who. When. What. Where.**

## Referencing Printed Sources (e.g. books and scientific journals)

### Who

Author(s)

### When

Year of Publication

### What

Title of Publication  
(can be in italics)

### Where

Place of Publication:  
Name of Publisher

### Examples

1. Darwin, C. 1859. *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection*. London: John Murray.
2. Newton, I. 1686. *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*. London: Royal Society Press.

## Referencing Online Sources (e.g. websites, PDFs and e-journals)

### Who

Author(s)

### When

Year of Publication

### What

Title of Webpage  
or Document  
(can be in italics)  
followed by [online],  
[PDF] or [e-journal]

### Where

Available at:  
full URL address of  
webpage followed  
by [date accessed]

### Examples

1. The Royal Society of Chemistry. 2021. *Microscale Neutralisation and Precipitation Reactions* [online]. Available at: <https://edu.rsc.org/resources/microscale-neutralisation-and-precipitation-reactions/4013908.article> [Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023].
2. National Human Genome Research Institute. 2022. *The Human Genome* [online]. Available at: <https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/Genetic-Code> [Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023].

Note: If referencing a journal article (printed or online), you should include the volume number, issue number and page numbers for the article in the '**where**' of your reference.

This information was accurate at the time of publication. Websites may be updated.