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Sir

**Practical work in science education**

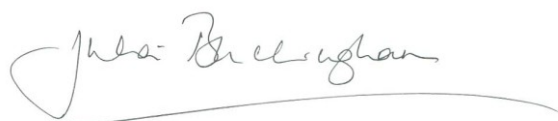
As SCORE\* Chair I am writing to support the concerns raised by the Council for Science and Technology in a recent letter addressed to Michael Gove, dated 31 July.

Practical work is an intrinsic part of studying the sciences, and as such, assessment of practical work should reflect its fundamental importance to the comprehension and skills gained at A-level.

In addition, the resourcing of school equipment, space and staffing, is as important as assessment to the extent and quality of practical work. SCORE research<sup>1</sup> has found that many schools are not adequately or appropriately equipped to carry out essential practical experiments and activities.

It is vital that the government, Ofqual and awarding organisations, recognise that practical work underpins the development of understanding and skill in the sciences, through well-developed assessment measures.

Yours sincerely



Professor Julia Buckingham  
SCORE Chair

\* SCORE is a partnership of organisations, which aims to improve science education in schools and colleges in England by supporting the development and implementation of effective education policy. The partnership is chaired by Professor Julia Buckingham and comprises the Association for Science Education, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Society of Biology.

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<sup>1</sup> Resourcing Practical Science in primary and secondary school reports; May 2013 <http://score-education.org/policy/curriculum/practical-work-in-science>