

Biology A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: Students require a GCSE Grade 6 in GCSE biology or grade 7-7 in combined science. Students also require at least a grade 6 in GCSE mathematics.

Subject Content

Year 1

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 2

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression



Progression/career opportunities:

Completing a course in Biology opens up many university and career prospects. These range from courses within the medical field such as pharmacy, physiotherapy, optometry, as well as more general degrees in biology and chemistry. Also biology contributes to degrees and careers in zoology (study of animals) veterinarian studies (working with animals), botany and more.

Assessments

Paper 1

Any content from topics 1 to 4 including relevant practical skills.
2 hours written exam paper worth 35% of A-level.
Out of 91 marks-
76 marks: Mixture of short and long answer questions.
15 marks: Extended response questions.

Paper 2

Any content from topics 5 to 8, including relevant practical skills.
2 hours written exam paper worth 35% of A-level.
Out of 91 marks-
76 marks: Mixture of short and long answer questions.
15 marks: Comprehension questions.

Paper 3

Any content from topics 1 to 8, including relevant practical skills.
2 hours written exam paper worth 30% of A-level.
Out of 78 marks-
38 marks: Structured questions including practical techniques.
15 marks: Critical analysis of given experimental data.
25 marks: One essay from a choice of two titles.

Skills gained and enrichment opportunities:

The subject content is relevant to real work experiences and is fascinating to learn, giving students freedom to explore around topics. The specification allows students to be inspired and to nurture their passion for biology, laying the groundwork for further studies in courses like medicine and biological Sciences. Practical skills are embedded into the teaching to give students every opportunity to develop their independence and scientific skills to further support their development.

Further information:

M N Charman - Head of Science
Miss E Ray – Lead KS5 Biology Teacher