

Biology

Examination Board: AQA

Entry Requirements:

Students are required to have a Grade B in both GCSE Science A (core) and GCSE Additional Science or in GCSE Biology. A Grade 5 in Mathematics is also required.

Why study Biology?

A Level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that helps students to develop skills and knowledge. It builds on the concepts and skills developed in the GCSE. It links well with many other subjects such as Chemistry, Psychology, Sport, Geology and Geography.

Course Content:

The first year of the course covers topics linked to biological molecules, cells, how organisms exchange substances with their environment, genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

The second year of the course builds on this and covers energy transfers between organisms, how organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, the control of gene expression, populations, evolution and ecosystems.

Assessment:

Biology is assessed by three two hour papers. One covering the first year content, one the second year content and one covering all content. The questions consist of a mix of short answer questions, comprehension questions and extended response questions.

There is no coursework for this subject. Instead there are a set number of practical tasks that are completed during the course. Students are assessed on their ability to complete these independently throughout the course. Students will then gain a practical endorsement pass on their A-level certificate to show they are competent in practical work. These are then asked about in the exams. The practical tasks allow students to use various techniques and specialised equipment, including dissections.

Further Course Information:

See Mrs Bonham. The course content can also be looked at in more detail by using the AQA website at <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

Future Uses:

Biology can lead on to a number of different courses as it demonstrates higher thinking skills and excellent analytical skills. Students who take A-level Biology go on to study a range of courses including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Sports Science, Forensic Science, Archaeology, Food Science, Nutrition, Dentistry, Marine Biology, Zoology, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and many more. Alternatively, many students take Biology to broaden their subject choices or just because they enjoy it!

