

Biology

A - Level AQA

General Course Information

What governs the colour of your eyes? What are proteins? How do some organisms become extinct? How do others survive? How do the cells in my body work together? In A-level Biology we ask questions of what we find around us. The discovery of why, what and how organisms survive on our planet. The lessons are about exploration and are student-led where possible, creating independent learners who question the world around them.

How is the course assessed?

We follow the AQA Biology (7401/7402) syllabus: details can be found on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk.

The content is as follows:

Year 1

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms And Their Environment
4. Genetic Variation & Relationships

Year 2

5. Energy Transfer Between Organisms
6. Response
7. Genetics and Evolution
8. Gene Expression

The full A-level qualification has three terminal examinations which will cover the content of the whole two-year course and assesses the six required practicals. In order to progress to the A2 course it is expected that you pass internal assessments to at least a grade D. Practical assessment will be covered by maintaining a lab book of six required experimental tasks. A complete lab book is a requirement of passing the practical skills assessment. The theory of practical skills and data analysis is examined within the examinations.

Who's it for?

What do I need to start a Biology A-level course?

- Enthusiasm!
- At least 6 GCSE's grade 5 or higher, including English Language and Mathematics at a Grade 6.
- Double - Grade 6-6 or higher in Trilogy Science GCSE (Double)
- Triple - 6 in Biology GCSE and 6 in the other two sciences
- Other qualifications may be considered; please discuss with us.

There is overlap between Biology and the other sciences, especially Chemistry. There are also obvious links with Mathematics, and it is strongly advised students take this course in addition to their Biology studies. However, none of these are mandatory for a study of Biology, we will be happy for students to take Biology out of pure interest, yet this could limit progress in some areas of the course.

Progression

Biology A-level is one of the most well-respected qualifications available and will help provide you with transferable skills to support you in almost all career choices.

Biology is usually required for University courses in;

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Science
- Pharmacy
- Biochemistry
- Ecology

