

Biology (AQA)

ABOUT THE COURSE

Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. However, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

As well as increasing your subject knowledge and understanding, the Biology A Level course helps you develop a number of skills:

- How to collect data and evaluate it
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view effectively
- How to take responsibility for your own learning.

COURSE CONTENT

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Why Study A-Level Biology?

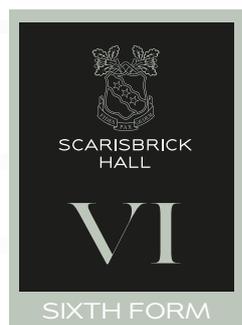
Biology is a complex and broad science. This course involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths.

You will develop a logical approach to problem solving combined with practical applications in experiments and fieldwork.

Biology is never far from the headlines either...

The human genome, new medical treatments, cloning, problems with over-fishing, arguments about stem cell research, new flu strains, environmental change and species extinction. Biologists are concerned with all these issues.

They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work they do is vital to us all.



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HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

PAPER 1

Written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks - 35% of A-level

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

PAPER 2

Written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks - 35% of A-level

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

PAPER 3

Written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks - 30% of A-level

- Any content
- Any practical skills

This qualification is linear; this means that students will sit all the A-level examinations at the end of their A-level course.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

- An enjoyment of, and an interest in, Biology
- A minimum of Grade B in each of Science and Additional Science at GCSE or Grade B in Biology, plus a Grade B or higher in GCSE Mathematics
- A need for a qualification in Biology for your future course or career
- A readiness to accept a challenge.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES - WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

A level Biology can open up a range of careers and higher education courses in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry, optometry, physiotherapy, pharmaceutical sciences, forensic science, biomedical and biological sciences, environmental health and food sciences. A level biology can also help gain direct entry into employment, especially into the scientific and related sectors.

