

# 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.

