

# BIOLOGY

## A LEVEL (AQA)

This course is designed to encourage candidates to develop:

- An enthusiasm for Biology
- Practical skills alongside understanding of concepts and principles
- An appropriate and relevant foundation of knowledge and skills for the study of biology in Higher Education.

**A level Biology is a two year course leading to a full A level (A2)**

### Core 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 (A-level only)
- Control of Gene Expression (A-Level only).

### How are you assessed?

#### Paper 1

- Any content from topics 1– 4, including relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 2 hours
- 91 marks
- 35% of A-level
- 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: extended response questions.

#### Paper 2

- Any content from topics 5 – 8, including relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 2 hours
- 91 marks
- 35% of A-level
- 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: comprehension question.

#### Paper 3

- Any content from topics 1– 8, including relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 2 hours
- 78 marks
- 30% of A-level
- 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.

### What will you learn?

Biology stimulates students from the start by conveying the core themes of life processes on our planet, the discoveries of Biologists, and the way in which Biology affects all of our lives. A large part of the course is focused on practical skills and includes new equipment which students won't have encountered before

### Where will it take you?

This is a traditional academic route which opens options at university in the Biological Sciences and, when paired with Chemistry, medicine and veterinary courses

### Who to talk to?

Please speak to Mr Jonathan Fry, or email [jonathan.fry@thebourneacademy.com](mailto:jonathan.fry@thebourneacademy.com)

### What will you need to study this course?

Five or more 9-4 grades at GCSE including English and Maths. A grade 6 or higher in Biology or in Combined Science at GCSE (6-5 at Combined is acceptable). A grade 5 or higher in English Language and Maths is essential.

Exceptional students with Grade 5-5 in Combined Science or a Grade 5 in Triple Biology may also join the A-Level course on the condition that they also attain a Grade 6 in English Language or Literature.