

Biology

A Level (AQA)

A Level Biology is designed to encourage students 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.

Entry Requirements

- **Minimum Standard:** Five or more grades at 4+ in GCSE or equivalent, including English and Maths.
- **Additional Criteria:** Minimum standard with a 6+ in Biology or a 6-5 in Combined Science. A 5+ in both English (Lang or Lit) and Maths is also required.

What will you learn?

A level Biology is a two year course leading to a full A level. 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. Students will learn about biological molecules, cells, how organisms exchange substances with their environment, genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms, energy transfers in and between organisms, how organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, and control of gene expression. A large part of the course is focused on practical skills and includes new equipment which students won't have encountered before.

How will you learn?

You will learn AQA A level Biology through a blend of factual recall, practical application, and analytical skills spread across 8 core topics.

- Year 1 Topics (1–4): Cover foundational concepts including Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms Exchange Substances, and Genetic Information.
- Year 2 Topics (5–8): Advance into complex themes like Energy Transfers, Responses to Environments, Evolution/Ecosystems, and Gene Expression Control.

Alongside your written exams, you will work toward the Practical Endorsement. This is a continuous teacher assessment based on your performance during the 12 Required Practicals across the two years.

How will you be assessed?

35%

Paper 1 – 35% Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills. Written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks.

35%

Paper 2 – 35% Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills. Written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks.

30%

Paper 3 – 30% Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills. Written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks.

Where will it take you?

This is a traditional academic route which opens up a wide range of university options in the Biological Sciences and, when paired with Chemistry, can support progression to Medicine and Veterinary courses. Biology can also lead to further study in areas such as Biomedical Science, Genetics, Microbiology, Ecology and other life science disciplines.

Who should you talk to?

Please speak to Mr Fry email:
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