

Biology

Course content

Biology is the study of life and living organisms. This science encompasses a wide range of domains including genetics, microbiology, taxonomy, biochemistry, physiology but also ethology and ecology. Studying A level Biology will give you a basic understanding of the way the body works, an overview of the impact of the expression of the genome and epigenome on metabolism, an insight into how cells communicate or how molecules interact or the use of microorganisms in industry and ecology.

The A level Biology Course is a two-year course gained by completing eight modules combined with the practical endorsement. The practical endorsement is an assessment of a student's skills and competency when completing core practicals.

The following topics are studied during A level biology:

Year 12

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13

Energy transfer in and between organisms

Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

The control of gene expression

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Biology and Maths

Assessment

1. **Paper 1** – 2 hours (written paper) – 91 marks - 35% of A-level
2. **Paper 2** – 2 hours (written paper) – 91 marks - 35% of A - level
3. **Paper 3** – 2 hours (written paper) – 78 marks – 30% of A – level

Progression

A-level Biology is a stepping-stone to future study. Biologists have a key role in contributing to improvements in tomorrow's world of health, sport, medicine, conservation and the food industry. The Biology course provides an excellent basis for further study and careers in the Life Sciences. From GM crops to diseases and medicines, to environmental issues, there has never been a more exciting time to be a Biologist.