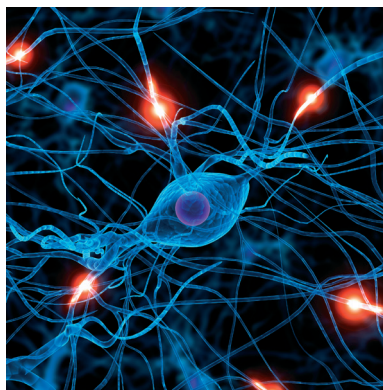


Biology



Examination Board: AQA



■ What is the course about?

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from micro-organisms to mammoths.

■ In Year 12 you will study:

There are four main topics in the first year and six practical assignments.

Unit 1: Biological molecules

Unit 2: Cells

Unit 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Unit 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

■ In Year 13 you will study:

Year two helps you build on the firm foundation from Year 12, and, like year one, has four academic topics plus six practical assignments.

Unit 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms

Unit 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Unit 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

Unit 8: The control of gene expression

■ How is the course assessed?

Year 12

Two end-of-year written exams: 1 hour 30 minutes

Year 13 (A Level)

Paper 1 and Paper 2

Each testing any content from topics 1-4 and 5-8, including relevant practical skills

Written exams: 2 hours (91 marks – 35% of A Level)

Paper 3

Testing any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills

Written exam: 2 hours (78 marks – 30% of A Level)

■ What skills will I need and develop in this course?

The biology A Level course helps students develop a number of skills:

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

■ Subject combination advice

Students who take biology often also study from a wide range of subjects, including psychology, sociology, PE, chemistry, physics, geography, languages and the arts.

■ What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science.

■ What are the formal entry requirements?

Biology GCSE minimum Grade 6, combined science GCSE minimum Grade 7.

■ What activities enrich this subject?

Attending *Biology in Action* lectures, an ecology field trip, keeping abreast of the news and topical TV articles and programmes dealing with current biological issues.