

Biology

A LEVEL - AQA

What are the aims of the course?

Students will be encouraged to:

- Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other
- Develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works
- Develop interest in and enthusiasm for biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in biology
- Appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

What does it involve?

YEAR 12

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms Exchange Substances with their Environment
4. Genetic Information, Variation and Relationships between Organisms

YEAR 13

5. Energy Transfers in and between Organisms
6. Organisms Respond to Changes in their Internal and External Environments
7. Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Ecosystems
8. The control of Gene Expression

How is it assessed?

Paper 1

Covers content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills

Written examination: 2 hours

91 marks – 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions and 15 marks: extended response questions

35% of A Level

Paper 2

Covers content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills

Written examination: 2 hours

91 marks – 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions and 15 marks: comprehension question

35% of A Level

Paper 3

Covers content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills

Written examination: 2 hours

78 marks – 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques, 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data and 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

30% of A Level

Are there any specific entry requirements?

While there are no specific entry requirements it is strongly recommended that the student has a good background in a range of biology topics.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Biology is a natural fit to pursuing career pathways in the science and health sectors. Students pursuing a qualification in biology will develop skills of literacy, numeracy, problem solving and critical thinking. Biologists connect with natural, social, economic, political and technological fields giving them insight into the ever changing world in which we live.

