

Biology



OCR A-Level

Overview

Biology is primarily the study of living organisms - how they work and function and how they adapt and survive in their environments. It is a complex, fascinating and genuinely interesting subject choice.

Aims

- ▶ Develop interest in and enthusiasm for Biology, including developing an interest in further study
- ▶ Appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and our society.

Grade Requirement

Biology is a theoretically demanding subject. Students must gain 'AA' grades in GCSE Double Award Science or 'BBB' in Triple Award Science, along with a C grade at GCSE English and Maths. You must have at least 5 A*-C grades to study A-Levels, too.

Complementary Subjects

Biology is complemented by studying Chemistry, as there exist areas of overlap, especially in biochemistry, environmental science and microbiology. Science emphasises links between Biology and related subjects such as Geography, Physics and Physical Education.

AS-Level

Cell, Exchange and Transport

Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health

Practical Skills 1

A2-Level

Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

Control, Genomes and Environment

Practical Skills 2



Biology, like all sciences, is demanding but also very rewarding. You will need to be hard working and patient to truly appreciate this vast and detailed subject. In two years you will be required to read and learn a great amount. A Biology student needs to be dedicated and organised, disciplined and motivated.

The course aims to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Biology. It will help students to appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society as a whole. Over the two years, students will develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge, and understanding of how science works and develop an essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other.

Biology is an amazing complex and informative subject. It is the study of living organisms. It's about what makes us tick! It's like reading your own body's user manual. Can we be cloned and how does it work? Is cloning ethically right? Studying Biology may help you answer some of these and other questions.

Biology at A-Level is a prerequisite for many courses in Higher Education and for many areas of employment. It is also a long-established and respected qualification that can allow progression into a number of career areas such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biochemistry and others. The Biology course prepares candidates to progress into further or higher education, to follow courses in Biology, one of the other sciences or related subjects, or to enter employment where a knowledge of Biology would be useful. Study of AS or Advanced GCE Biology should also be seen as making a contribution towards life-long learning.

