

OCR AS & A Level Biology (A)

Course Overview

A Level Biology A will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. It covers the key concepts of biology and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Biology highly appealing. You will learn about the core concepts of biology and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will learn to apply your knowledge, investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts. Key features:

- Simple straightforward assessment through examinations
- Based on key concepts in biology
- Opportunities to develop practical skills through a range of experiments and investigations.

Course Content

Year 12

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology

Module 2: Foundations in biology. This includes: Cell structure; Biological molecules; Nucleotides and nucleic acids; Enzymes; Biological membranes; Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation

Module 3: Exchange and transport. This includes: Exchange surfaces; Transport in animals; Transport in plants.

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease. This includes: Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system; Biodiversity; Classification and evolution

Year 13

In addition to the modules studied as part of Year 12, the following modules are studied in Year 13:

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy. This includes: Communication and homeostasis; Excretion as an example of homeostatic control; Neuronal communication; Hormonal communication; Plant and animal responses; Photosynthesis; Respiration.

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems: This includes: Cellular control; Patterns of inheritance; Manipulating genomes; Cloning and biotechnology; Ecosystems; Populations and sustainability.

Assessment

For the new A levels from September 2015 the AS Level examinations do not contribute to the final grade awarded for A Level at the end of Year 13.

In Year 12 you will sit the following examinations:

- **Breadth in biology:** 70 Marks, 1h30mins written paper (50% of AS Level)
- **Depth in biology:** 70 Marks, 1h30mins written paper (50% of AS Level)

In Year 13 you will sit the following examinations:

- **Biological Processes (01):** 100 marks, 2h15mins written paper (37% of A Level) - assesses content from modules 1,2,3 and 5
 - **Biological diversity (02):** 100 marks, 2h15mins written paper (37% of A Level) - assesses content from modules 1,2,4 and 6
 - **Unified biology (03):** 70 marks, 1h30mins written paper (26% of A Level) - assesses content from modules 1 to 6
- Practical endorsement - a non exam assessment which does not contribute to the awarding of the A Level grade in biology.



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Entry Requirements

To follow A Level Biology successfully, students should have gained a minimum of two B grades at higher tier, in appropriate science subjects. It is anticipated that students will have studied Biology as a Separate Science subject or will have followed the Combined Science route. A Level Biology has approximately 10% maths content therefore we require a minimum GCSE Mathematics Grade 5 but will consider each applicant on an individual basis.

Progression

A Level Biology is a good facilitating subject and can lead directly into further study at university across a range of subjects. Science based A Level subjects can also be of value to many vocational options post-18 because of the transferable skills developed throughout the course.

Course Contact

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