

A Level Biology

Biology literally means ‘the study of life’. A Level Biology is a dynamic subject, taught in a lively, enjoyable and varied way. Our motto is “Variety is the Spice of Life Science!”

Practical work

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out a range of practical investigations that will give you the skills and confidence to draw conclusions and evaluate the way living things work and behave.

Examples:

- Using microscopes to see cell division
- Heart dissection
- Microbiology: effects of antibiotics on bacteria
- Studying animal behaviour
- Factors affecting enzyme activity
- Chromatography of photosynthetic pigments
- Urine analysis & diabetes



Every year students opt to take part in the British Biology Olympiad- with great success! The BBO challenges and stimulates students to expand and extend their talents.

Year 1 (AS)	Year 2 (A2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological molecules, DNA & enzymes• Cell structure & cell division• Immune system• Gas exchange in plants & animals• Transport: heart & circulation• Biodiversity & classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photosynthesis & Respiration• Homeostasis & hormones• Receptors, nerves & muscles• Inheritance & genetics• Evolution & populations• Ecosystems & energy flow• Gene technology, medical diagnosis & gene expression



Entry Requirements:

This A Level builds on prior knowledge from GCSE in science and maths, so it is important that you have good results from both.

You need to have achieved:

Five GCSEs at grade 5 to 6 or above, including Maths and English Language. GCSE Science grade 66 (combined science) or GCSE Biology grade 6 (separate).

Assessment:

AS: 100% by examination. You will sit two 1.5-hour exams at the end of Year 1 and must achieve grade D or above to continue into Year 2.

A2: 100% by examination. You will sit three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 2. There is no coursework, but you must complete twelve assessed practicals to achieve a Practical Endorsement Certificate. 15% of your exam marks tests practical knowledge. 10% of your exam marks tests Maths skills.

Courses at University include:

- Dentistry
- Biochemistry
- Biomedical Sciences
- Environmental Science Biology
- Medicine
- Radiography
- Sport & Exercise Science
- Physiotherapy
- Zoology

Careers include:

- Conservationist
- Dentist
- Doctor
- Marine Biologist
- Nurse
- Paramedic
- Pharmacologist
- Research Scientist
- Teacher
- Vet

