

Biology AS/A2 (AQA)

The study of Biology aims to develop your interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Biology. The course is designed to enable students to:

- Understand and demonstrate, through application, and provide a deeper knowledge of the skills required to investigate biological scientific concepts
- Develop data handling skills and the ability to analyse and evaluate scientific data
- Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other and a range of other disciplines
- Develop an appreciation of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how sciences contribute to the success of the economy, society and the well-being of the individual

Main features of the course:

The AS specification has 3 units:

Cell Exchange and Transport
Molecules, Disease and Biodiversity
Practical Skills in Biology

The A2 specification has 3 units:

Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
Control, Genomes and Ecology
Practical Skills in Biology

How is the course assessed?

AS

Unit 1: Written paper - 1 hour
Weighting: 30% of AS mark/15% of total A level mark
Unit 2: Written paper - 1 hour 45 minutes
Weighting: 50% of AS mark/25% of total A level mark
Unit 3: Coursework - three set tasks
Weighting: 20% of AS mark/10% of total A level mark

A2

Unit 4: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins
Weighting: 15% of total A level mark
Unit 5: Written paper - 2 hours
Weighting: 25% of total A level mark
Unit 6: Coursework - three set tasks
Weighting: 10% of total A level mark

Progression

Careers in Biology, Ecology, Biomedical Science, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Food Science, Nursing, Genetics, Biochemistry, Zoology, Botany, Human Biology and Marine Biology are just a few that Biology can be the first step to.