



BIOLOGY

Examination Board: AQA
Specification: Advanced GCE 7402

Why should I study Biology?

It is a fascinating subject for general knowledge, often in the news due to its impact on society. Biology raises many issues of interest in religion & ethics, such as what it is to be human, whether and how we might be altering ourselves as a species, and what to do about moral decisions around the start and end of life in the light of scientific facts. Biology develops your problem solving, data analysis and numeracy abilities – all very transferable skills that will help in your future studies!

What will I learn about?

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
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 will I be taught?

A variety of teaching styles are used within the department including ICT, observational practicals, investigative practical work and fieldwork. Attendance on a one day field trip in Shropshire is compulsory, costing about £40. Any students experiencing financial hardship may apply to the school for support. All of the staff are enthusiastic about their subject and this is contagious!

Application beyond school:

Biology A Level opens so many doors it is impossible to list them all! Possible careers range from the popular Medicine and Dentistry, through a huge field of healthcare jobs, to seemingly unrelated careers such as Accounting, Engineering and Law! In addition, it helps you navigate our constantly changing world.

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Assessment Format:

Level	Component	Requirements	Duration	Marks
A Level	Paper 1	Topics 1 – 4 (Year 1 content)	2 hours Year 13	91 35% of A Level
A Level	Paper 2	Topics 5 – 8 (Year 2 content)	2 hours Year 13	91 35% of A Level
A Level	Paper 3	Topics 1 – 8 (Whole A Level content)	2 hours Year 13	78 30% of A Level
A Level	Practical Assessment	12 set practicals throughout the course. 15% of examinations will assess practical skills		

Are there any special requirements?

- A love of Biology! Don't see it as a means to an end – enjoy learning!
- You are required to have grades 9, 8 or 7 at G.C.S.E. Although it is good if this is in the separate Sciences, similar grades from Core, Additional and Further Additional Science GCSE are acceptable, but only if your Biology papers are of an A grade standard.
- It is best to be doing AS Chemistry at the same time, although occasionally some students cope well without Chemistry.
- Good ability in Mathematics is always useful. Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for Biology will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills will be applied in the context of Biology and will be at least the standard of higher tier GCSE Mathematics. Constant practice and development of your numerical skills will be embedded into your Biology A Level studies.

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