

A Level – Biology - AQA

Contact: Miss N Tyson

Course Description

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from micro-organisms to mammoths.

Biology as a subject is rarely far from the headlines...

The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya, 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology and the work they do is vital.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Written exam (2 hours, 91 marks and is worth 35% of the final A Level)

- Biological molecules; cells, how organisms exchange substance with their environment; genetic information; variation and relationships between organisms; relevant practical skills.

Paper 2 - Written exam (2 hours, 91 marks and is worth 35% of the final A Level)

- Energy transfers in and between organisms; how organisms respond to their internal and external environment; genetics; populations; evolution and ecosystems; control of gene expression; relevant practical skills.

Paper 3 - Written exam (2 hours, 78 marks and is worth 30% of the final A Level)

Any content; any practical skills.

Although this will not contribute to the overall grade, students will be assessed on their practical competencies. If successful, a certificate is awarded alongside their A Level qualification.

Additional Entry Guidance

We recommend that you have a grade 6 or above in Combined Science (Trilogy) or Biology at GCSE (Higher Paper). It must be emphasised that this is not a requirement, but may prove helpful, especially when accessing the higher grades at A Level.

This course is not suitable if you are re-sitting GCSE Mathematics