

Biology

A-Level



What will I learn?

You will study A Level Biology with OCR A, covering six modules along with a Practical Endorsement, which is required for certain university courses. The topics include the development of practical skills, foundations in biology, exchange and transport, biodiversity, evolution and disease, communications, homeostasis and energy, and genetics, evolution, and ecosystems. Practical skills, integrated with theoretical topics, are assessed through written papers.

How will I learn?

The course integrates practical skills with theoretical concepts. The learning process involves studying key biological concepts, performing experiments (from using microscopes to dissecting locusts), and applying knowledge to solve problems. Practical work is a significant aspect of the course, requiring a willingness to explore and experiment. Assessment includes written papers, with the full A Level comprising two 2hr 15min papers on the content and a 90-minute synoptic paper. AS level students take two 90-minute papers.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment involves written papers for both AS and A Level. Full A Level students take two 2hr 15min papers and a 90-minute synoptic paper. AS level students undergo assessment through two 90-minute papers. Practical skills are integrated into the theoretical topics and contribute to the overall assessment.

Trips and Extracurricular activities.

Opportunities such as museum visits and a residential art trip to St Ives might be offered during the course. Students will also be encouraged to engage in a range of local workshops and competitions.

FAQs.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Before starting the A Level Biology course, you should have studied either GCSE Combined Science with a grade of 66 or GCSE Biology with a grade of 6. A grade 6 in maths is also strongly recommended as 10% of the assessment is maths based.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for strong science enthusiasts with a passion for understanding biological concepts. While not as mathematical as other Science A levels, comfort with calculations, graph interpretation, and clear expression of ideas is essential. Enjoyment of practical work and a readiness to explore different approaches to problem-solving are also crucial.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Completing the A Level Biology course opens up various career options, including medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, neuroscience, dentistry, environmental science, conservation, sports science, and more. The skills acquired are also valuable in fields such as finance, IT services, computing, education, and healthcare.

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

Either GCSE
Combined Science
with a grade of 66
or GCSE Biology
with a grade of 6

Skills Gained

Problem solving
Critical thinking
Evaluation
Data analysis
Creating Research
Team work
Presentation skills
Revision skills

Careers

Medicine
Veterinary medicine
Pharmacist
Neuroscience
Dentistry
Environmental
science
Conservation
Sports science