GCSE Biology Curriculum

Course Specifications

Course Title: Separate Sciences Biology

Exam Board: AQA

Link to specification:

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF

Grading: 9-1

Course Details

What will you learn?

Year 10

Autumn

Cells and Organisation

- Cell structure and transport
- Cell division
- Human digestive system
- Organisation in animals and plans

Spring

Disease and Bioenergetics

- Communicable diseases
- Preventing and treating diseases
- Non-Communicable diseases
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration

Summer

Ecology 1

- Adaptation, interdependence, and competition
- Organising and ecosystem

Year 11

Autumn

Ecology 2

- Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Biological Responses

- The human nervous system
- Hormonal coordination
- Maintaining balance in the body

Spring

Genetics and Reproduction

- Reproduction and Genetics inheritance
- Variation and Selection
- Evolution and Classification

Summer

Preparation for Summer exams

How will you be assessed?

During the Course

Year 10: Progress checks, End of unit assessments, Mid-year exams

Year 11: Progress checks, end of unit assessments, PPE 1, PPE 2

At the end of the course:

Your final grade will be awarded based on the following examinations and / or coursework.

Paper 1: Topics 1 – 4: Cell biology; Organisation; Disease and Bioenergetics.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50 % of GCSE

Paper 2:

Topics 5 – 7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50 % of GCSE

What independent work can you do?

Learn:

Glossary of Key Terms: Eukaryotic, Prokaryotic, Resolution, Magnification, Hormones, Synapse, Neurotransmitters, Trophism, interdependence, biodiversity, Domains, Classification

RAG and Revisit:

PLCs

What independent work can you do?

Explore:

Recommended Reading: Anatomy. H Druvert & JC Druvert The Private Life of Plants. David Attenborough, Insectpedia: A Brief Compendium of Insect Lore

Revise:

Top tips and strategies

- **Past exam papers:** Complete at least one past paper per week. Complete as many topical questions from websites in the links below.
- **Summarise your notes:** Identify the key ideas and essential details. This technique improves understanding and retention by making information clearer and more manageable.
- **Flashcards**: Write key information on cards, don't forget to include an example
- **Mind maps**: Visually organize information by creating diagrams that connect ideas. This helps you see the relationships between topics.
- **Mnemonics**: Use songs, rhymes, or acronyms to help remember facts and figures.
- **Recording and replaying**: Record yourself reading notes and listen back to them.
- **Sticky notes:** Write / draw a key point on each note and place them around your house to help with memorisation.

Prepare:

Exam papers, VIPzone
kerboodle textbook
Sparx Science

Which resources should you use?

Textbooks, websites, online resources

Kerboodle

AQA Website

Maths and Physics tutor

Seneca

GCSE POD

Cognito Biology

Cognito videos

Study Mind-Biology