

Biology – Year 9

Course Title: GCSE Biology	Exam Board: AQA	Specification Code: 8461
How will students be assessed? Students will sit two external exams at the end of Year 11. Each paper is worth 50% of their final GCSE grade. Both exams will be 1 hour and 45 minutes in length requiring students to answer multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions will be knowledge based as well as drawing on the practical work that students have completed throughout the course. Biology GCSE Paper 1: This will assess the topic areas of Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response and Bioenergetics Biology GCSE Paper 2: This will assess the topic areas of Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology		

Half Term	Key Content
1	Cells and Microscopy • Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic cells • Structure and function of organelles • Use of Microscopes Required practical 1: Microscopy
2	Cells and Microscopy • Specialised cells Assessment on Cells and microscopy Mitosis and stem cells • Mitosis and the cell cycle

3	Mitosis and stem cells Stem cells and application of stem cell technology Assessment on Mitosis and stem cells
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4	Cell Transport • Diffusion • Osmosis • Active transport Required practical 3: Osmosis in plant tissue Assessment on Cell transport
5	Organisation: Digestive system • Structure and function of the digestive system • Food tests Required practical 4: Qualitative food tests
6	Organisation: Enzymes • Enzymes • Factors affecting enzyme action Required practical 5: Enzyme activity Assessment on Enzymes and digestion