

AS-LEVEL BIOLOGY

Many learners study Biology because they wish to study the subject at university while others do so in order to study subjects such as medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy, psychology, biochemistry and pharmacy, for which A-level Biology is essential. However Biology is an important subject, not just for science, but for many other types of career.

Biology at A level involves a good deal of biochemistry it is highly recommended that you take Chemistry to at least AS level alongside AS-level Biology.

Biology is also far more numerical at A-level than at GCSE, confidence with basic numerical skills is essential for successful study at A-level.

Course content and assessment

Unit 1 - Biology and Disease.

- How digestive and gas exchange systems may be affected by communicable and non-communicable diseases
- How knowledge of basic biology allows us to understand the symptoms of disease and interpret data relating to risk factors

Unit 2 – The Variety of Living Organisms.

- The influence of genetic and environmental factors on intraspecific variation
- How the variety of life is reflected in similarities and differences in its biochemical basis and cellular organisation
- How size and metabolic rate affect an organism's requirements and give rise to adaptations.

Unit 3 – Practical and Investigative Skills/EMPA

This includes – The design, implementation and collation of results of a practical investigation. This is followed by a written examination on practical investigations.

The AS Level comprises of two written papers, plus the centre assessed practical component.

Teaching and Learning

You will be taught in a variety of ways; including whole class teaching, class discussion, small group work, presentation, doing quizzes. Practical work will feature strongly, both as reinforcement of the theory and as preparation for the practical exam.

A key aspect of preparation for the AS examinations will be frequent tests – expect a test every 2 weeks, the tests will take 2 forms: 1. Mastery learning tests – a series of short answer tests designed to aid your learning of key terminology and 2. Longer Class tests at the end of key topics designed to give exam practice.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification A