



Biology A Level (OCR)

Why study this subject?

Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. The study of Biology is essential to a wide variety of careers. Many biologists choose a career in medicine, dentistry, marine biology or forensic science. Biology is also a useful qualification that develops communication, problem solving and logical thinking skills. Subjects such as Chemistry, Geography, Physics, Psychology and Mathematics go well with Biology.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website. If you are studying Combined Science, you will need the equivalent of a Grade 6 in Biology.

Content

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Biology

Module 2 – Foundations in Biology

Module 3 – Exchange and transport

Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5 – Communications, homeostasis and energy

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment

Students sit three written examination papers containing multiple choice, structured questions and extended response questions covering theory, mathematical and practical skills. Students will also complete several practical skills to gain a Practical Endorsement.

Future courses and possible careers

A qualification in this subject is highly valued and will help students to gain a place at a respected university. Biology provides an excellent foundation for careers in a variety of professions and occupations in the areas of molecular and cellular biology, physiology, industrial microbiology and biotechnology, human genetics, forensic science, health education, plant pathology, oceanography, herpetology, animal behaviour, ecology, environmental studies, entomology, parasitology, botany, mammalogy and postgraduate education.