

What is Biology A Level?

Biology is the study of life itself, from the complex interactions of organisms in an ecosystem to the biochemistry of DNA and proteins. Biology is central to many major scientific disciplines such as Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Biophysics.

Throughout your studies you will learn the biological basis of issues ranging from HIV to cancer. You will also develop practical and analytical skills and debate the ethical issues that are central to the modern biologist.

You should consider biology A level if you are interested in making links between topics you have learnt about at GCSE and you enjoy reading about scientific developments in the news.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

What content will I cover?

Paper	Topics	Weighting	When?
1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Energy for biological processes✓ Microbiology and pathogens✓ Modern genetics✓ Synoptic AS questions	30% of A-level	Year 13
2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Origins of genetic variation✓ Control systems✓ Ecosystems✓ Synoptic AS questions	30% of A-level	Year 13
3:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications, including practical techniques	40% of A-level	Year 13

How will I be assessed?

You will take all three A Level examinations at the end of Year 13. All of the exams are two hours long.

What skills will I develop?

- ✓ Knowledge and understanding of biological processes
- ✓ Application of knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures
- ✓ Analysis of scientific evidence to develop procedures and make informed judgements.

WHERE CAN BIOLOGY A LEVEL TAKE ME?

If you love Biology A level you might want to study biological sciences, biochemistry, biology, psychology or human sciences. A scientific A level is also an excellent grounding for any degree.

Biology A level is required for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science degrees.

WHAT DO I NEED TO ACHIEVE?

You need to achieve an A/A* in biology GCSE if you study triple science with separate sciences.

You need to achieve an A/A* in core science, additional science and further additional science if you study triple science.

You need to achieve an A/A* in core science and additional science if you study double science.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters - Matt Ridley
The Seven Daughters of Eve - Brian Sykes

There are always new developments in biology so reading the science pages of a quality newspaper will also be excellent A Level preparation.



HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

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