

AQA Biology

A level

Two year course

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

- Develop skills such as logic, analysis, interpretation of data, Maths and research.
- Directly relevant for a range of careers.
- A living subject with a dramatic pace of change; links to ethical and moral issues.
- Develop practical skills and independent learning styles.
- It is known as 'a facilitating subject'. Which? University says the phrase describes "a handful of A level subjects commonly asked for in universities' entry requirements, regardless of the course you are applying to"

Range of Careers

- Physiotherapy
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Veterinary Science
- Midwifery
- Research - academic/ industrial
 - Ecological
 - Marine
 - Pharmaceutical
 - Molecular Genetics



- Clinical Trials
- Pharmaceutical Sales
- Pathology
- Embryology
- Forensic Scientist
- Animal related jobs
- Biomedical Science



Year 12

4 Units

Teacher 1	Teacher 2
2 -Cells	1 -Biological Molecules
3 – Organisms exchange substances with their environment	4 – Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

A2 Content

Teacher 1	Teacher 2
Energy transfers in and between organisms	Organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environment
Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems	The control of gene expression

Assessments for year 12 (Internal Examination)

- Paper 1
 - Any content from unit 1-4 +practical skills
 - 1hr 30mins
 - 75 marks
 - 65 marks short answer
 - 10 marks comprehension question
- Paper 2
 - The same but extended response questions instead of comprehension

Assessment for A2/Year 13 (External exam)

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Any content from units 1-4	Any content from units 5-8	Any content from units 1-8
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
91 marks	91 marks	78 marks
35% of A level	35% of A level	30% of A level
76 marks : long and short answer questions	76 marks : long and short answer questions	38 marks: structured questions including practical techniques
15 marks : extended response questions	15 marks : comprehension question	15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data
		25 marks , one essay from two choices of title

Maths

- **10% of A level is maths**

- Converting units
- Standard form
- Calculating ratios and percentages
- Estimating results
- Interpreting and analysing data
- Understanding probability
- Select and use statistical tests
- Understand measures of dispersion e.g. standard deviation
- Understand and solve algebraic equations
- Using logarithms
- Plot and calculate data from graphs

Practical assessments assessed in written papers

- In order to be able to answer these questions, students need to have been taught, and to have acquired competence in, the appropriate areas of practical skills
- A level has a separate practical endorsement of skills

Practical endorsement

- Minimum of 12 practical assignments
- 6 in year 12
- 6 in year 13

- Need to keep a separate practical record

- Students that achieve will receive a PASS grade

What we expect!

- Entry – Level 6 combined science, Level 6 Maths
- 5 hours of private study each week – minimum
- Reading around the subject – magazines, books etc.
- To get to grips with the maths
- To revise as you go along
- To learn key words – word for word

