

Subject: Key Stage 5 Sciences.

A Level Biology:

The exam board is AQA.

This is a two year course made up of eight units; four units in Year 12 and four units in Year 13.

YEAR 12 UNITS

- 3.1 Biological molecules
- 3.2 Cells
- 3.3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 3.4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

YEAR 13 UNITS

- 3.5 Energy transfers in and between organisms
- 3.6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 3.7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 3.8 The control of gene expression

There is also a practical component to the course with the compulsory completion of 12 required practical activities, along with a whole range of other practical activities to help students develop an understanding of scientific processes. These practical activities will not form part of the overall A Level grade but the practical activities have to be passed. At least 15% of the overall assessment of A-level Biology will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to this practical work.



COURSE INFORMATION

All external exams are at the Year 13 and comprise of the following:

Paper 1	+	Paper 2	+	Paper 3
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">Any content from topics 1– 4, including relevant practical skills		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">Any content from topics 5 – 8, including relevant practical skills		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">Any content from topics 1– 8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours91 marks35% of A-level		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours91 marks35% of A-level		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours78 marks30% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions15 marks: extended response questions		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions15 marks: comprehension question		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

10% of the overall assessment of A-level Biology will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above.

External AS Biology exams are taken at the end of Year 12. This allows a thorough assessment of progress so far and means that if students do drop the subject at the end of Year 12 they will have some points to go towards their UCAS points total when applying for Higher Education courses.