A Level Biology

Exam Board: AQA

Course summary:

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Our A-level Biology qualifications are a stepping stone to future scientific study, with real-world applications and practical at their heart.Biology can lead to a range of exciting university destinations. The top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Biology are:

- Biology
- Psychology
- Sport and exercise science
- Medicine
- Anatomy
- Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology
- Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry.

Course Overview:

A-level Biology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows the topics you will study in each year.

First year of A-Level:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Second year of A-level:

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms

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Assessment:
There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practical will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practical. The AS has two exams at the end of the year. Both are 1 hour 30 minutes long.

Entry requirements:
A-level Biology builds on the work done in GCSE Science and Maths, so you'll need good GCSE results from both. Written communication is also important and you'll need to be a strong writer. If you're interested in studying Biology after your GCSEs, ask your teacher about the qualifications you'll need.

Who is the course for?
Anyone interested in a career in medicine, microbiology, veterinary sciences and many other very popular fields of work.

Career pathways:
Studying A-level Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist.

"Biology is bigger than physics. It enjoys bigger budgets, a bigger workforce, and achieves more major discoveries. Biology is likely to remain the biggest part of science through the twenty-first century."
Freeman Dyson, theoretical physicist and mathematician