

Biology

Examination Board: AQA A Level in Biology: 7402

What will I learn?

Biology is the most rapidly evolving of all the sciences, and the last 10 years have brought huge advances in our understanding and use of gene technology, the combating of many diseases, and protection of the environment.

You will look in detail at biological molecules, gene technology and the genetic code, alongside the physiology of plants and animals, with a particular emphasis on the human organism.

In addition you will study genetics (including breeding experiments with fruit flies), and ecology. During the A Level year, you will be introduced to forensic science and have to solve your own crime scene using genetic fingerprinting techniques.

Assessment

A Level examination: Three 2 hour papers.

No coursework element although there is a small internal assessment of practical skills.

Who is the course suited to?

Students who take A Level Biology can go on to study Veterinary Science, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Microbiology, Forensic Science, Genetics, Botany, Zoology, Ecology and Environmental Science.

What is the structure of the course?

- Biological molecules.
- Cells.
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment.
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
- Energy transfers in and between organisms.
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.
- The control of gene expression.

Reasons to consider doing Biology at A Level:

- Biology, with its mixture of scientific method, problem solving, practical skills and socially relevant content, provides a useful complement to arts and humanities among mixed A Levels.
 - It is widely recognised by universities as providing a broad base in key areas of critical evaluation and problem solving.
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