

SCIENCE

Biology



Examination Board: AQA
Subject Leader(s): Mrs K McGrath



Course Structure

Unit	Topics/Unit Title	Assessment		A Level (%)
1	Biological molecules	Paper 1 - Written Exam 2 hours - 91 Marks		Paper 3 - Written Exam 90 minutes - 78 Marks
2	Cells			
3	Organisms exchange substances with their environment	35% of A level		30% of A level
4	Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	76 Marks: Questions 15 Marks: Comprehension		38 Marks: Structured questions 15 Marks: Analytical questions.
5	Energy transfers in and between organisms	Paper 2 - Written Exam 2 hours - 91 Marks	35% of A level	25 Marks: Essay - Choice of 2.
6	Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments			
7	Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems			
8	The control of gene expression			
		76 Marks: Questions 15 Marks: Comprehension		

What does the course involve?

- Many of the Biology topics that you study at GCSE - in more depth.
- New topics - including biochemistry, cell ultrastructure and molecular genetics.
- Advances in medicine, agriculture, biotechnology, classification and ecology that illustrate that modern biology is exciting, relevant and challenging.
- Development of a higher level of private study and self-organisation.
- The course is delivered as interactive lectures, discussions, practical sessions, student presentations, field trips, visits and revision sessions.
- For details of the course and full specification, you can visit <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

Further Study/Employment Prospects

Biology is recommended for careers in nursing, medicine, veterinary science, the environment, biotechnology, sports science, and so on. Even if you are not planning to pursue one of these, learning about this subject should be interesting and give you a better understanding of yourself, your environment and the organisms with which you share this planet. The skills developed during the course will be useful in many situations and in a wide variety of careers.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE Biology/Science: grade 6
- GCSE English and maths to Grade 5 or equivalent.
- A keen interest in Biology, including plants and animals, as well as humans is assumed.
- Enthusiasm, curiosity, problem-solving abilities, good ICT and practical skills, attention to detail, efficient organisation, determination, a good memory and effective revision techniques, will all contribute to your success.