

Course title: Biology AQA

Academic year:	2027
Course Venue:	SGB
Course Type:	A-level
Duration:	2 years

Course Content:

YEAR 12	YEAR 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological molecules • Cells • Organisms exchange substances with their environment • Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy transfers in and between organisms • Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments • Genetics, populations, evolutions and ecosystems • The control of gene expression

Which key skills will I develop?

Team work during practicals, independent work, working to deadlines, resilience, memory development, problem solving, confidence, imagination, organisational skills that will help to revise the work.

Entry requirements:

The standard entry criteria to study in the sixth form are a 9-5 in at least five different subjects, including English and mathematics, which would usually be at grade 4 or above.

To study science subjects at A-level (biology, chemistry, physics or psychology), you will be required to achieve at least a 6 grade in trilogy science or have achieved 6 or above in the individual subject area if taken as a separate science.

Assessment - Exam structure at the end of Year 13:

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals 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 practicals and approximately 10% will be based on maths skills.

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 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 78 marks 30% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions 15 marks: extended response questions 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions 15 marks: comprehension question 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

Practicals

Biology, like all Sciences, is a practical subject.

Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating animal behaviours
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.
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These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

The practicals are written up in a set of practical books and the student must keep careful records of the skill areas covered as these are externally moderated.

Although there is no coursework, the practical skills will form part of the written exam and there will be a pass or fail indicated on the final exam certificate. It is imperative that you pass.

Future opportunities:

Potential degrees courses include; Biology, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry.

Potential career options include; Clinical molecular geneticist, Nature conservation officer, Pharmacologist, Armed forces, Research scientist, Higher education lecturer, Secondary school teacher, Soil scientist, Dentist, Doctor.

Further information: aqa.org.uk/science

