

## Course title: Biology AQA

<b>Academic year:</b>	2026
<b>Course Venue:</b>	SGB
<b>Course Type:</b>	A-level
<b>Duration:</b>	2 years

### Course Content:

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

### 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 is a 9-4 in at least seven different subjects, including English and mathematics, which would usually be at grade 4 or above.

To study Biology at A-level, you need to achieve a grade 6 or above at GCSE in either separate or trilogy 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
<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills</li> </ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills</li> </ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills</li> </ul>
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>91 marks</li> <li>35% of A-level</li> </ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>91 marks</li> <li>35% of A-level</li> </ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>78 marks</li> <li>30% of A-level</li> </ul>
<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions</li> <li>15 marks: extended response questions</li> </ul>		<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions</li> <li>15 marks: comprehension question</li> </ul>		<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques</li> <li>15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data</li> <li>25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles</li> </ul>

### 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](http://aqa.org.uk/science)

