

# A Level Biology

**Examination board & syllabus: AQA Biology**

**Minimum Entry Requirements: GCSE Additional Science Grade 5/6 or Biology Grade 5/6, English Grade 5 and Maths Grade 5**

## **Course Outline:**

The course is split into 8 topics:

### **Work covered in Year 12**

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange systems and their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

### **Work covered in Year 13**

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

## **External Assessment**

There are 3 papers of 2 hours each at the end of Year 13. Paper 1 covers topics 1–4, paper 2 covers topics 5–8 and paper 3 covers the entire range of topics. All the papers could include questions on the practical work that has been done during the course. The papers are a mixture of short and extended answer questions, and the final paper includes an essay worth 25 marks (out of the total of 78 marks for this paper).

**A Level Practical Endorsement:** Students will also have to demonstrate a series of practical skills through 12 required practicals and will gain a pass or fail. This will not count towards their overall grade but there may be entry requirements in further education for a pass in the practical endorsement.

**Assessment:** There will be internal tracking tests after each topic - up to two every half term, as well as PPE examinations for each exam.

**Equipment required / Approx Cost:** Text book for each year (£22 each)

**Independent Study Tips:** There is a lot to learn and Biology is content intensive so prepare your summaries and revision notes for each unit as you go along. 5 hours in total per week.

## **Higher Education Progression:**

A useful A Level for degrees in Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Science, Animal Science, Sport Science, Physiotherapy, Forensic Science.

## **Career Opportunities:**

A Level Biology is seen as a useful qualification in most, if not all professions.

## **Useful Websites:**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

<http://www.practicalbiology.org/>

<http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/>