

Why study A Level Biology?

Biology is the study of life, from the single cell to the evolution and distribution of all living organisms – including you. This course gives you a broad and comprehensive knowledge of biological processes, advancements and ethics. You develop practical skills with unfamiliar equipment and processes such as stage micrometers and colorimeters and with this, enhance your analysis and evaluation skills. These competences will place you in a strong position for both scientific and non-scientific career paths.

What will I study?

Most topics in year 12 reinforce content from GCSE and progress your knowledge further with new ground. You'll study the internal details and structures of cell organelles, the immune and circulatory systems in detail and how we classify and monitor the vast array of wildlife in different habitats. Early on, you complete practical work on enzymes as part of the Practical Endorsement and these practical activities support your learning and build your skills throughout the year, finishing with a field trip in term 6.

Following this, several topics will explore the working of the mammalian body such as the muscular, excretory and nervous system. You will learn to appreciate the complexity of biochemical reactions such as respiration and photosynthesis, along with how your DNA controls the expression of your genes. You will also study the many actions which are being taken to monitor, conserve and preserve organisms against environmental change and will be able to perform statistical analysis to evaluate data.

Assessment

100% examined.

Paper 1: Written exam 2 hour 15 minutes in length, consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions. Accounts for 37% of the A-level.

Paper 2: Written exam 2 hour 15 minutes in length, consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions. Accounts for 37% of the A-level.

Paper 3: Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes in length, consisting short and long answer questions. Accounts for 26% of the A-level.

Study trips, visits and events

A 3 day Field trip to Margam in Wales to build confidence and put into practice what is taught in the Ecology module. Alongside other visits, to such places as Bristol Zoo to learn about and see conservation methods in action.

Subject entry requirements

6 in Biology or 6-6 in combined science, plus 5 in Maths.



Student Perspective

"I chose to study biology at A Level to understand more about the living world. The anatomy of organisms has always interested me and being able to compare our biology topics to real life situations. The small classes help to give a focused and supportive environment to learn about some more challenging ideas. Combined with interactive and practical lessons I feel well prepared to progress to university study."

Milly, A Level Biology student