

A-level Biology

Board and Specification: OCR AS-level Biology A (H020) A-level Biology A (H420)

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Subject specific entry requirements:

- Separate Science, must have a grade 6 in Biology, with at least two grade 5s in the other sciences
- Grade 7-6 in Combined Science where Separate Science is not taken
- Grade 5 in English Literature and/or English Language
- Grade 5 in Mathematics

What skills are required of students?

- The ability to problem solve
- The ability to undertake your own research
- The ability to work independently
- Practicality
- Some knowledge of biological terminology and keywords
- Good literacy skills

Course details:

As an A/AS-level Biology student you will further develop the practical skills gained at GCSE. You will also undertake topics such as: foundations in biology (biological molecules and cellular organisation); exchange and transport; biodiversity, evolution and disease; communications, homeostasis and energy; genetics, evolution and ecosystems.

As a result, you will complete the A-level Biology course with a broad range of knowledge of how living systems work, including the principles of genetics, molecules, taxonomy, natural selection, evolutionary theory, global warming, bacteria and viruses, amongst others.

Modules titles and codes:

A-level in Biology A (H420)

- Module 1 – Development of practical biology
- Module 2 – Foundations in biology
- Module 3 – Exchange and transport
- Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

- As a student of biology, you will gain a wide range of skills through practical work integrated with theoretical study; and you will be assessed through written papers.
- Small groups should allow staff to give individual help regularly during lessons.
- Practice past paper questions and examination of associated mark schemes

What other A/AS-levels does your subject connect well with?

Mathematics, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, PE, Chemistry and Physics.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

An A-level in biology can open up a world of opportunities in both university choices and career options:

If you are considering applying to university to study Biology, Zoology, Ecology, animal science, marine biology, life sciences, medicine, environmental science, forensic science or any other subject related to the natural world, then an A-level in Biology is essential. A-level Biology is also a preferred option for a wide range of other related degrees and is described as a 'facilitating subject'.

There are a huge range of possible career choices that require A-level Biology. These include: medicine, biological testing, biotechnology, independent research, food industry jobs, nutrition, nursing, veterinarian, zoologist, zookeeper, animal care, veterinary nurse and scientist.