



TEACHERS SAY...

Biology is a practical subject, but don't be worried if you are squeamish! It is the study of life and the interactions between living things. If you have a passion for nature, Human Biology or just knowing how life works, Biology is for you.

YOUR NOTES

Course Overview:

A level Biology is a fundamentally experiment centred subject. It covers thousands of different organisms, from the largest mammals down to our very own microscopic DNA. We seek to understand how individuals survive, but also as the complications arising from groups. There are plenty of opportunities to study complex biological ideas in the context of Human Biology, making this a relevant and exciting subject to study.

Topics covered

A level Biology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows what you 'll learn in each year.

First year of A level	Second year of A level
Biological molecules, DNA and RNA, cell structure and functions, viruses and bacteria,	Photosynthesis, respiration, energy transfers, nutrient cycles, external and internal stimuli
Immune system, digestion and absorption, species and taxonomy	Survival and response, the heart, homeostasis, blood, nerve impulses, genetics
Biodiversity, organisms and exchanges, genetic information and DNA	Evolution and ecosystems, inheritance, cancers, genome project, genetic fingerprinting

A level Biology

Examination Board:



Teacher contact:

Mr Cardus

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Entry requirements: Five 9 to 4 (A* to C) with a minimum 6 (B) in Science and Maths

Type of Assessment:

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practical 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 practical.

This course goes well with:
Sciences and Maths

Possible degree options

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A level in Biology are:

- Biology
- Medicine
- Anatomy and physiology
- Psychology
- Pharmacology
- Sport & exercise science

What can I do now to help me prepare for my course?

Biology is an academically challenging course and most students do find the start of their A level study demanding. The key to success is, as ever, good preparation. How can you prepare? You need to be comfortable with the basic biology from your GCSE course. When you start the course you will be given induction materials to help prepare you but you should also take time to a look at these websites.

http://www.mrothery.co.uk/	Extensive notes, summaries and past paper questions. Other resources can be found in each module's resource centre.
http://www.biology4all.com/	A valuable resource for teachers and pupils - this site is hosted by the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Central Lancashire.
https://www.biozone.co.uk/biolinks/	Links to over 500 sites of biological interest
http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/biology	Excellent revision source for both GCSE and A Level.
http://www.aqa.org.uk/	Exam board website, past papers, specification and other resources

Literacy, when you...

...read around the subject, and use several sources of information to answer problems.

Numeracy, when you...

...analyse data, draw graphs and calculate answers

ICT, when you...

...research current theories, create presentations and complete assignments.

Possible career options:

Biology offers a wide range of career options, both through the topics themselves and also because of the practical and investigative nature of the subject. Career options include:

Marine biology

Biochemist

Pathologist

Zoology

Medicine

Pharmacy

Physiotherapy

Microbiology

Scientific Journalist and many more.