

Biology Course Information

Title of Course	Biology
Exam Board	OCR
Syllabus title	Biology A
Course Code	H420 (2-year A level) http://www.ocr.org.uk/alevelbiologya
Course Content	Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Biology Module 2: Foundations in Biology Module 3: Exchange & Transport Module 4: Biodiversity, Evolution & Disease Module 5: Communication, Homeostasis & Energy Module 6: Genetics, Evolution & Ecosystems
Assessment and weighting	A Level Paper 1: Biological Processes (37%) A Level Paper 2: Biological Diversity (37%) A Level Paper 3: Unified Biology (26%) A Level: Endorsement of Practical Work – Pass/Fail
Trips/visits	Day trip to Whipsnade Zoo Other ad hoc local trips if suitable opportunities arise
Future opportunities/ careers	The course is directly relevant for many degrees in biology or related subjects including medicine, biochemistry, and pharmacy. The subject can also support an application for a degree in something completely different. A good A level pass in Biology is also evidence of general academic standards and transferable skills for candidates who wish to move straight into employment.
Links with Other Subjects	Candidates who are also taking at least one of the following subjects will have a much greater choice of destinations and courses when they leave school: Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, Psychology, Physical Education, Physics

Person Specification

	<p>Essential:</p>
Qualifications / School Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade b or better (UMS > 69) on BOTH GCSE papers B1 & B2 • GCSE grade 6 or better in English • GCSE grade 5 or better in Mathematics • 95% or better attendance in year 11 • ATL in sciences never less than 2 (good) during KS4
Attitude / Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard working & organised • Positive & enthusiastic • An interest in biology and biological issues • An interest in practical work and the process of scientific enquiry
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe handling of laboratory equipment and chemicals • Handling data and plotting graphs and charts • Competence in general arithmetic • Learning and using specialist vocabulary • Working as part of a small team
	<p>Desirable:</p>
Qualifications / School Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade c or better (UMS > 59) on GCSE paper B3 • Grade b or better (UMS > 69) on any assessed GCSE practical work
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General skills in ICT for word-processing and making presentations