WGS6 A Level Options
Biology FAQ Information Sheet

Which exam board and courses are studied at A Level?

AQA A-Level Biology 7402

What skills will studying Biology equip me with?

Biology is a broad discipline and helps to develop many different skills. Some include:

- Time management
- Study skills
- Problem solving
- Planning
- Essay writing
- Critical thinking
- Analysis
- Mathematics

Do I need a specific grade at GCSE to access A level?

We typically ask for a grade 7 in GCSE Biology and a 7-7/6-7 in Combined Science. Grade 6s or 6-6 will be considered if the candidate is hard working and shows an enthusiasm for Biology. Anyone with lower grades might be accepted after a probationary period.

How is the course structured and how will it be taught?

This is a two-year course consisting of 8 Sections. 4 are taught by one teacher and the other 4 taught by another. The Sections are grouped so that one teacher will teach Sections that flow into each other and build on the learning from previous ones.

Teacher A – Section 1: Biological Molecules, Section 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms, Section 7: Genetics, populations, ecosystems and evolution.

Teacher B – Section 2: Cells, Section 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment, Section 5 – Energy transfers in and between organisms, Section 6 – Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment.

Each Section is further subdivided into Topics.

Is there a coursework component?

There are 12 Required Practicals that pupils must complete. Within these practicals pupils must pass a set of standards called CPACs. Not all CPACs are assessed in all practicals but pupils are given multiple opportunities to pass all of them, and they only need to do so once.

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Who teaches the course?

The Biology team are all experienced, enthusiastic teachers with their own unique teaching styles who pride themselves on getting the best out of their students.
Mr J Finch – Head of Biology
Dr K Worthington PhD
Mr M Crehan MSc, MEd
Mr A White

How is the course resourced?

Pupils are assigned a textbook that they keep for whole of the two-year course, as well as a practical portfolio and lab book. We teach using mixed media and technology is used in most lessons, with resources often posted to Teams for use in lesson.

How well do students achieve in Biology?

Pupils achieve well in Biology, a third of the grades achieved are A*- A and in 2023/24 we achieved a 100% pass rate. Every year many of our pupils go on to study the course of their choice at University, including Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Will I need to do a lot of independent study?

In short, yes. There is a significant amount of content within Biology and pupils are expected to complete a minimum of 5 hours of independent study a week. Independent study in Biology includes exam question homework every lesson, planning and researching practical work, as well as revision for mid topic mini-assessments and end of unit assessments.

What are typical A level subject choices alongside Biology?

Pupils typically choose at least one other science, Chemistry or Physics. Mathematics is also a popular choice.

Do I need to take another subject to support my study of Biology?

No other subject is required to support Biology but other Sciences and Maths help.

What subject related extracurricular opportunities are offered at A level?

The Biology team help to support Medsoc. Our A-Level students often have wide ranging extra-curricular commitments.

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How might Biology help me in my next steps / university / career planning?

Biology is a requirement for some courses such as Veterinary Science and Dentistry but will support applications to any university course, including Medicine.

Career wise Biology helps develop transferrable skills such as analysis, critical thinking, time management and problem solving which are essential to any successful career.

Other helpful information about studying Biology

AQA A-Level Biology specification: AQA | Biology | A Level | A-level Biology

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