

**A-Level Biology**

Course Information

**Qualification:** Advanced Level Biology

**Exam Board:** EdExcel B

**Subject Teacher:** Mrs K Gillick and Miss H Hurdle (this year)

**Entry Requirements**

Subject Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE Biology if doing separate sciences

OR

6,6 in GCSE Combined Science

**Why study Biology?**

Biology is a fascinating subject, the study of which will see you learn about the natural world and all the living things within it. Gaining an A-level in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options, many of which can take you all around the world.

Students choose Biology for many reasons — perhaps they have a specific career in mind that requires a Biology qualification in mind, or maybe they are simply interested in the human body, or in the natural world around us. Biology covers a broad range of topics and has aspects to interest a wide range of students. Biology is a pre-requisite subject for many degrees in Biological Science and Medical related fields of study.

**What will I study?**

**Course Content**

The Biology A-Level consists of 10 topics:

Topic 1 – Biological molecules

Topic 2 – Cells and viruses

Topic 3 – Classification

Topic 4 – Exchange and transport

Topic 5 – Energy for biological processes

Topic 6 – Microbiology and pathogens

Topic 7 – Modern genetics

Topic 8 – Origins of genetic variation

Topic 9 – Control systems

Topic 10 - Ecosystems

**External Assessment**

**Paper 01** – Advanced biochemistry, Microbiology and genetics (1 hour and 45 minutes written paper). Covers content from topics 1 – 7. (30% of total A-Level)

**Paper 02** – Advanced physiology, Ecology and evolution (1 hour and 45 minutes written paper) Covers content from topics 1 – 4, 8, 9 and 10 (30% of total A-Level)

**Paper 03** – General and practical principles in Biology (2 hours and 30 minutes) – Covers content from all topics 1 to 10. (40% of total A-Level)

**Practical Endorsement:** Internally assessed and monitored by Pearson. The assessment of practical skills is a compulsory requirement of the course of study for A level biology. It will appear on all students’ certificates as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for the qualification. Students must carry out a minimum of 12 practical activities which assess a range of scientific skills. Practical work is central to any study of biology. For this reason, the specification includes 16 core practical activities which form a thread linking theoretical knowledge and understanding to practical scenarios.