

A 'Level Biology A (H420)

Awarding body: OCR

Method of assessment

End of Year 12
1 hour 30 minutes (70 marks) written paper
1 hour 30 minutes (70 marks) written paper

Method of assessment

End of Year 13
A Level:
2 hours 15 minutes (100 marks) written paper
2 hours 15 minutes (100 marks) written paper
1 hour 30 minutes (70 marks) written paper
Practical endorsement in Biology
(internal ongoing practical assessment)

Course entry requirement: It is expected that applicants for this course achieve grade 7 in GCSE Biology or in Double Science.
A GCSE grade 5 or higher in Maths is also a requirement.

Course description and what it will be like: The Biology A level course requires the development of a range of skills from scientific knowledge through to mathematical and practical skills. In the first year there is an element of biochemistry as well as a focus on traditional biological concepts such as cells, ecology and disease. Students are issued with an online course text book to support each module and to help with their research and homework. The Biology Department is well equipped and places considerable emphasis on practical work.

Specification and Units of Study:

Year 12 Units

Module 1 - Development of practical skills in biology
Module 2 - Foundations in biology
Module 3 – Exchange and transport
Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Year 13 Units

Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Opportunities for Progression and Careers Prospects:

Biology combines well with other subjects and many biology students also study chemistry which supports the biochemical aspect of the course.
There is also common ground with PE and Psychology.
Biology A-level leads to a variety of career options at different levels such as: agriculture, horticulture, food research, biotechnology, marine biology, veterinary surgery, forensic science, dentistry and medicine.