Campion School Sixth Form
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

A Level Biology - Course Information

Exam board – OCR syllabus Biology A

What is A Level Biology?

A level Biology A will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. It covers the key concepts of biology and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. You will learn about the core concepts of biology and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life.

What does the course involve?

- Enables students to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to one another, and an appreciation of scientific methods, mathematical, and problem-solving skills.
- Develop relevant practical skills alongside essential knowledge and understanding of a range of biological concepts and scientific methods.

Entry Requirements: GCSE Combined Science Grade 77 or Triple Biology Grade 7 or above

GCSE English Grade 5 & Mathematics Grade 6 or above

What themes are studied?

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2: Foundation in biology
- Module 3: Exchange and transport
- Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease,
- Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

How is it assessed?

Assessment is through **three written exams** at the end of Year 13, each testing knowledge, data analysis, and evaluation skills across all six modules.

Paper 1: Biological processes - written exam: 2 hours 15 mins - 37% of A Level (100 marks)
Paper 2: Biological diversity - written exam: 2 hours 15 mins - 37% of A Level (100 marks)
Paper 3: Unified biology - written exam: 1 hour 30 mins - 26% of A Level (70 marks)
Practical endorsement in biology – non examined assessment

What are lessons like?

A Level OCR Biology lessons covers core biological concepts such as cells, enzymes, genetics, homeostasis and ecology through teacher explanations, diagrams, models and real-world examples. Practical lessons are a major component, including 12 required practical's like microscopy, dissection and sampling. Regular assessments, past paper practice and independent study are key parts of the course. Across two years, students develop scientific, analytical and data-handling skills while covering all modules needed for the final three exam papers and the practical endorsement.

Where Can Biology Take You?

Studying A Level Biology opens pathways to many science and health related fields, leading to university courses such as medicine, biomedical science, nursing, environmental science, biochemistry and psychology, as well as careers in healthcare, laboratory work, forensics, biotechnology and conservation. It is valued for developing strong analytical, practical and problem-solving skills, and it also supports entry into scientific and healthcare apprenticeships.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Wiseman