

# Biology A level



Hertswood

## Why take this subject?

Biology is never far from the headlines...This has never been more evident on a global scale than the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Biologists across the world have been deployed to investigate how the virus replicates and infects populations. Biologists are involved across all aspects of the pandemic, from being scientific advisors to the government, working in labs to create testing systems, swabbing people with symptoms, processing test results, developing and testing vaccines. Biology has many real world applications in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work biologists do is vital to us all. A-Level Biology not only teaches you the facts, but develops you so that you become a scientist with the ability to evaluate and change the world around you in a scientific manner.

## What do I need to have studied in year 11?

- You must have at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5 including English and Maths
- At least a Grade 6 in their separate sciences or a minimum 6 in additional science. You should also show consistent effort and homework grades of 2 and above. Additionally, students should have a minimum of a 6 grade in Maths and English GCSEs and, again, homework consistently at 2 or above.

## What will we study?

In the first year you study four main topics: 'Biological molecules', 'Cell', 'Organisms exchange substances with their environment and Genetic information', 'Variation and relationships between organisms'. Year two helps you build on that foundation and has four academic topics. The academic topics are Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, 'Genetics, populations', 'Evolution and ecosystems' and 'The control of gene expression' and 'Control in cells and organisms'.

## How will I be examined?

Unit	Assessment	Weighting
Topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills	Paper 1- 2 hour written exam	35%
Topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills	Paper 2- 2 hour written exam	35%
Any content from topics 1-8, and practical skills	Paper 3- 2 hour written exam	30%

## What super curricular opportunities will be available to me?

Currently, both AS and A2 students are offered the opportunity to travel to London for revision seminars. We also run fieldwork courses.

## What can this subject lead to?

Many Biology A level students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biology related degree course. Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching. So, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

## Subject Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

