



BIOLOGY

Examination Board

- OCR

Year 12 Course

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2 – Foundations in biology
- Module 3 – Exchange and transport
- Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Two exams at the end of Year 12, both covering content from all 4 modules

Year 13 Course

- Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
- 3 exams at the end of Year 13:
- Biological Process assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- Biological Diversity assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.
- Unified Biology assesses content from all modules (1 to 6).

Note that the Year 12 exam results do not contribute to the final A Level mark and therefore 2 years of content is assessed in the Year 13 exams.

Coursework

The A Level Sciences no longer have a traditional coursework component. You will have to complete 12 practical techniques and you will be assessed on these in class and via the written exams. Students will receive a 'pass' in the Biology Practical Endorsement if they can demonstrate that they are consistently competent in all 12 practical techniques. The Practical Endorsement is expected to be an entry requirement for science degrees.

Useful websites / reading materials

□ Class textbooks –

A Level Biology A for OCR Year 1 Student Book by Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0198351917

A Level Biology A for OCR Year 2 Student Book by Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0198357648

A Level Biology A for OCR Year 1 and Year 2 Student Book by Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0198351925

Other resources:

- OCR website – For details of the specification, past papers and more - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-biology-a-h020-h420-from-2015/>
- The A level Biology OCR Range- https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books_a_level_biology_ocr



Skills required

- Ability for independent study and reading relevant science in the news
- Ability to memorise key words, follow technical instructions to carry out experiments
- Organisation
- Maths
- Chemistry

Recommended Study

- Approximate 5 hours of Biology per week, increasing when there are examinations to prepare for.

Independent Study

- Reading over and writing up notes in detail
- Reading ahead for the next lesson
- Complete tasks and activities on the Kerboodle website
- Small group revision and study sessions
- Memorising keywords using resources such as Quizlet.com
- Completing set homework tasks
- Answering and self-assessing past paper questions
- Preparing for practical's
- Watching science programmes on TV / online
- Reading relevant science stories in the news eg conservation, health issues etc.