

Year 13 Biology

Students study AQA A level biology

They study 8 units of work over two years all of which is examined in 3 exams at the end of Year 13. Knowledge builds upon concepts covered at GCSE.

Students have two teachers; both teaching 2 periods per week. Students also have 1 supervised independent study period per week called a 5th period. We are very keen to ensure that all students have a similar experience whoever their teacher. All students carry out the same assessments and practicals and we use common markschemes and grade boundaries to ensure parity.

Each lesson begins with a Brain in Gear retrieval task. There will be teacher input of some kind followed by tasks which use prior learning to develop greater knowledge understanding. Once understanding is established then students develop their ability to apply this to unfamiliar situations. This may all happen within 1 lesson or over a series of lessons dependent upon the topic. Practical skills and other skills such as data analysis are built into lessons throughout the two years of the course.

There is no coursework but a "Practical Endorsement" is awarded at the end of the course provided students have demonstrated a suitable level of skill in a wide variety of specified practical techniques

At the end of each topic students complete a topic test made up of past exam questions. This is then marked and graded and used to identify strengths and areas in need of attention.

Year 13 Curriculum	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Teacher A	Unit 6 - organisms respond to change in their external and internal environments (cont'd) Nerves and muscles Homeostatic control of blood glucose and the kidney	Unit 8 - Control of gene expression Gene expression including its control DNA technology	Mock exam - Paper 2 (Units 5-8) Maths skills for biologists Preparation for paper 3 - the practical paper Completion of Required Practicals	Mock practical paper 3 (excluding the essay question) Detailed revision programme of units 1 and 4	Detailed revision programme of units 6 and 8	Examination period

Teacher B	<p>Unit 5 - energy transfers within and between organisms (cont'd)</p> <p>Biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis</p>	<p>Unit 7 - Genetics populations, evolution and ecosystems (cont'd)</p> <p>Inherited change Genetic crosses Populations and evolution Population genetics and natural selection</p>	<p>Mock exam - Paper 2 (Units 5-8)</p> <p>How to write a biology essay</p> <p>Completion of RPs</p>	<p>Mock essay (from paper 3)</p> <p>Detailed revision programme of units 2 and 3</p> <p>Mock paper 1</p>	<p>Detailed revision programme of units 5 and 7</p>	
Assessment	<p>All units are broken down into 2 or 3 key sections within Y12 A facts test is carried out at the end of each section which tests learning and recall Students then have at least 1 and usually 2 exam style tests on each unit of work Students are given an in class exam in January on units 1 and 2 and an end of year exam on units 1-4 (equivalent to an A level paper 1) Practical skills are assessed in accordance with exam board criteria (CPAC) whilst completing a further 6 required practicals built into lessons during the year. In addition, understanding of the biology underlying these practicals and others is assessed through the end of unit tests and exams. Homework tasks are often centred around past exam questions Students sometimes self assess their own work with some homeworks being given with answers so that students are expected to complete, mark and correct their own work. This increases as students progress through the course and become more adept at this. They can then use this to identify the gaps in their own learning and understanding. Required Practicals are assessed in line with the exam board requirements</p>					

Independent Work

Research style tasks
 Questions on classwork and Exam questions
 Practical write ups or planning
 Responding to feedback
 Revision
 Essays
 5th period work - this can be a variety of different activities, studying a topic independently from given resources, completing a test, completing classwork or questions, planning practicals, working in groups on presentations etc.