

The subject matter will be studied theoretically and by experimental investigation. There are 2 well equipped specialist laboratories with excellent technician support. Practical aspects of Ecology will be covered on a field course at Ainsdale Sand Dunes. There will also be a visit to Chester Zoo.



Students at Chester Zoo

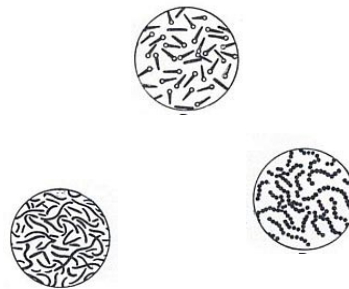


## Qualifications and Skills Needed

To study A level Biology it is essential to have grades A or B in Dual Award Science, Single Science or the separate sciences (not Applied Science), and grade C or above in Mathematics and English. Students should also have a keen interest in the subject.

The skills demanded by the A level courses are very wide ranging. Design, manipulative and observational skills are essential in the practical work as well as an ability to handle the mathematics involved in data analysis.

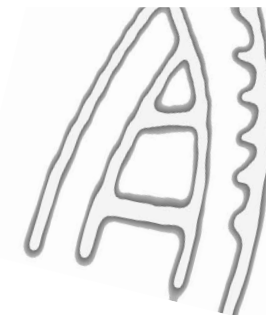
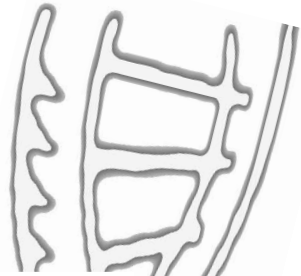
Biology can be studied at A level with a range of other subjects leading to a wide variety of careers or degree courses e.g. Medicine, Dentistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Food Science, Teaching.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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# Biology

Information



## Course Biology Level AS / A Level

The A level course is divided into AS and A2. Each of these involves 3 units.

### AS (Advanced Subsidiary)

This represents the first half of the full A level and will usually be studied in the first year at college with external exams in January and June.

### A2

The second part of the full A level will usually be studied by students who have already passed the AS level and are in the second year of their A level courses. (External exams in January and June).

### AS and A2 = A level

AS and A2 will each contribute 50% to the full A level. The AS and A2 courses are each made up of 3 assessment units.



## The Science of Life

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either...

The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work they do is vital to us all.

## Your Key Learning Topics

In the first year you'll study three main topics: 'Biology and disease', 'The variety of living organisms', plus a practical assignment which is designed to sharpen your investigative skills. Amongst them, these three topics give a solid grounding in Biology.

Year two helps you build on that firm foundation and, like year one, has two academic topics plus a practical assignment. The academic topics are 'Populations and environment', and 'Control in cells and organisms'. The practical assignment is where you investigate a different area of Biology.



## Who takes this Course?

Biology is one of the most popular A level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. 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.

## On Your Marks...

In the first year you'll have three assessments. A 75 minute paper on 'Biology and disease' and accounts for 17% of your A level marks. A 105 minute paper on 'The variety of living organisms' accounts for 23% of your A level marks. The practical assignment – accounts for 10% of your A level marks.

Year 2 is almost identical. A 90 minute paper on 'Populations and environment' accounts for 17% of your A level marks. A 135 minute paper on 'Control in cells and organisms' accounts for 23% of your A level marks. The practical assignment – accounts for 10% of your A level marks.

## What Skills will I Learn?

The Biology A level course helps students develop a number of skills:

- How to collect data and evaluate it
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view effectively
- How to take responsibility for your own learning.