

GCSE Biology



Career Options

Examples of careers opportunities include: medicine; physiotherapist; chemist; beautician; plumber; nurse; surveyor; engineer; farmer; sports trainer; lawyer; journalist; computer games developer.

Subject Content

GCSE Biology is part of the AQA Separate Science suite, developed to inspire and challenge students. The course provides the foundations for understanding the natural, material and physical world.

Pupils will study the following topics in Biology:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Assessment Information

- GCSE Biology is a linear course worth 1 GCSE.
- Pupils will follow the higher tier subject content (Grades 9 – 4) and are assessed by two 1 hour and 45-minute exams. Paper one assesses, Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and response and Bioenergetics. Paper two assesses, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.
- Each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Questions include multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.
- Each examination is out of 100 marks and has a weighting of 50%. Scores will be added to give an overall total which will then be converted to a grade.
- Pupils will also gain experience of 10 practical activities. Questions in the written exams will draw on the knowledge and understanding students have gained by carrying out the practical. These questions will count for at least 15% of the overall marks for the qualification.

Why Study...?

GCSE Biology includes progression in the subject content and consistency in the exam questions, so pupils have the best preparation for A-level. The course aims to also develop pupil's ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Key Contact: Mrs Draper