

IGCSE Biology

Why study Biology?

This qualification will provide you with a broad introduction to the key components of this exciting and challenging field, of which there are over 30 different branches, from agriculture and anatomy to virology and zoology, with quite a few in between that you have probably never heard of.

The IGCSE biology course is designed to help meet the needs of those who want an introduction to this challenging and ever developing subject either with a view to further study at A Level or IB Diploma or simply to supplement other IGCSE/GCSE subjects.

What will I study?

The subject is broken up into five sections:

- 1 The nature and variety of living organisms (cell structure and classification)
- 2 Structures and functions in living organisms (levels of organisation, biological molecules, movement of substances, nutrition, respiration, gas exchange, transport in plants and animals, excretion, and co-ordination and response)
- 3 Reproduction and inheritance
- 4 Ecology and the environment (feeding relationships, cycles within ecosystems, human influences on the environment)
- 5 Use of biological resources (food production, selective breeding, genetic modification and cloning).

In addition, there will be many practical experiments from which you will develop knowledge and understanding of experimental skills through the context of the biology you will be learning.

How will Biology benefit me?

You will develop your understanding of the living world around you and learn scientific methods which will allow you to form hypotheses and then go on to design experiments to test them.

You will obtain an IGCSE which shows that you are capable of applying scientific terms and ideas which is greatly sought after by employers; an IGCSE in biology can be the starting point for a career in medicine, pharmacology and a host of other areas.



ASSESSMENT

The IGCSE in biology is a linear qualification with two written exam papers taken in the summer of Y11, experimental skills are assessed as part of the written examinations:

Paper 1:

(61%) 2 hours

Paper 2:

(39%) 1 hr 15 mins

Both papers include a mixture of different question styles, including short-answer questions, calculations, practical based questions and extended open-response questions.