

A Level Biology

AQA A Level Biology (7402) – from September 2016

In Year 12 you will study four topics and each takes about half a term, including the practical work. Topics include:

Topic	Content	Assessment
1	Biological Molecules	Paper 1 Any content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills – 2 hours written exam with a mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions (35% A Level)
2	Cells	
3	Organisms exchange substances with their environment	
4	Genetic Information, variation and relationships between organisms.	

In Year 13 you will study another four topics and each takes about half a term, including the practical work. Topics include:

Topic	Content	Assessment
5	Energy transfers in and between organisms	Paper 2 Any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills – 2 hours written exam with a mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions (35% A Level)
6	Organisms respond changes in their internal and external environments	
7	Genetics, population, evolution and ecosystems	
8	The control of gene expression	

There is also a Paper 3 which is any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills – 2 hours written exam with a mixture of structured questions, critical analysis of experimental data and one essay (30% A Level).

You will carry out practical activities throughout the course. There are twelve required practical, six in year 12 and six in year 13. At the end of Year 13 there are also three written exams, each lasting 2 hours long.

Homework: You will be given weekly homework which consists of extra reading, exam questions and essays. These will be collected in and marked on a weekly basis.

Students studying Biology in Year 13 currently follow the Edexcel Biology specification. This is a context-led approach where Biology is studied through real-life contexts. The following is studied at A2 level:

Topic	Content	Assessment	Marks
4	The natural environment and species survival	1hr 30min exam	90
5	Energy, exercise and co-ordination	1hr 30min exam	90
6	Practical Biology and Investigative Skills	Experimental investigation	45