

BIOLOGY

Examination Board: OCR

Specification Number: AS-H021 A-H421

Why Study BIOLOGY to AS Level?

Biology is the study of life; concerned with all living things and with many of today's problems. Studying AS Biology could give you an appreciation of how to help overcome sickness, produce more food and conserve natural resources.

Why Study BIOLOGY to A2?

The A2 Biology course provides you with an excellent grounding for a wide range of interesting degree courses. The topics covered build on AS concepts and explore issues in more detail.

Entry Requirements

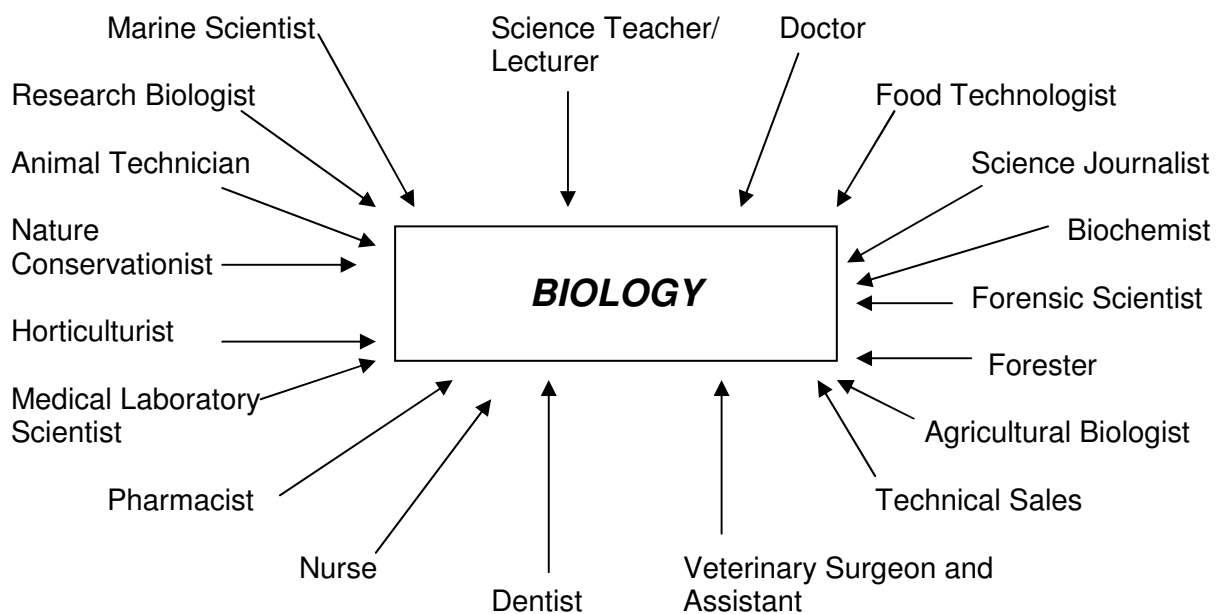
Minimum entry requirement is a CC in Double Science (preferably higher) and a good pass in Mathematics. A willingness to meet course requirements and deadlines is also expected.

Higher Education

An A Level in Biology can provide a basis for a degree in Biology or in a wide variety of related disciplines e.g. Biochemistry, Biophysics, Neuroscience.

Careers

Studying Biology at A Level allows you to enter literally 1000's of interesting and varied careers.



Course Content

Before taking the AS units of assessment you will study the following modules of work.

Module 1. F211: Cells, Exchange and Transport

In this module you will learn about the structure of cells and how they work, including cell division. Also included is a section on transport mechanisms in animals and plants.

Module 2. F212: Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health

In this module you will learn about the way in which diseases and diet affect health. Learn about the important biochemicals in your body and how evolution leads to biodiversity.

Before taking the A2 units of assessment you will study the following modules of work.

Module 3. F214: Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

In this module you will learn about the way in which energy is used in organisms, including details of photosynthesis and respiration. You will also cover homeostasis and communication systems within the body.

Module 4. F215: Control, Genomes and Environment

In this module you will learn about the growth of organisms and how it is controlled and how we can use this information in ecosystems. Sexual and asexual reproduction in animals, cloning and gene technology. In addition there is also a section on how plants and animals respond to their environments.

Assessment

This subject has 4 external examinations. The first module in each year is shorter to allow assessment in January. The remaining module will be taken in the summer session.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary (AS), you will need to have studied and been assessed on the 2 AS units.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE you will need to have studied and been assessed on the 2 AS units plus 2 further units known as A2 units.

Practical work.

At AS and A2 your practical skills are assessed by a series of tasks carried out throughout the year. These tasks are set by the exam board, carried out under controlled conditions in class and marked in school. This system is similar to the ISAs and PISAs at GCSE and should build on your knowledge and skills.