

GCE A-Level Biology

Exam board: AQA

Duration: 2 Years

COURSE DETAILS/UNITS AND AIMS

The A-Level Biology course is a 2 year course worth a maximum 56 UCAS points. The course contains 8 units each of which contain practical skills assessments that must be passed to gain the qualification.

Assessment

The course will be assessed at the end of the 2 years with **Three 2 hour exams**. Paper 1 is made up of 76 marks of short & Long answer questions and 15 marks from extended response questions. Paper 2 is made up of 76 marks of short & long answer questions and 15 marks from comprehension questions. Paper 3 is made up of 38 marks of practical questions and 15 marks of critical analysis questions and a 25 mark essay question. In addition around 15% of the questions will test your practical skills and therefore your ability to understand and carry out practical's is also vital for success as is a good understanding of Higher tier GCSE maths.

Content

Units 1 to 4 are the same as for the AS level, in addition to those units you will also study the following

Unit 5—Energy Transfers in Organisms

In this unit you will look at the complex chemical reactions that take place during photosynthesis. Which include just how plants turn the light they absorb into energy. You will also revisit and extend your knowledge of the reactions of respiration which includes looking at energy within food chains and nutrient cycles.

Unit 6—Responses to internal and external environments

This unit also builds on your GCSE knowledge allowing you to look at the nervous and endocrine systems. You will study the heart and circulatory systems and spend time developing your knowledge of how things such as water and sugar levels are controlled.

Unit 7—Genetics, Populations, Evolution & Ecosystems

This topic extends work from earlier on in the qualification. You will look at genetics, specifically inheritance and how this leads to evolution and speciation.

Unit 8—Gene Expression

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

The skills you will need to develop and extend will include practical lab skills, report writing and research techniques. There will be an expectation that after each practical you would write up the investigation in full during your private study time. Therefore you must also be comfortable with fully writing up investigations, analysing and presenting the data and able to draw conclusions based on your evidence.

Due to the technical nature of this subject entry requirements are **BB in your GCSE Sciences**, one of which must be biology if you took the triple award and a **B for GCSE**

CAREER INFORMATION

A good stepping stone for those that wish for careers in hundreds of fields for example laboratories such as a hospital infection labs and forensic crime labs, field research such as the environment agency and even medical/genetic research.



Scan this code for more careers information

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT - Mr D Huckin