

A Level Biology (AQA exam board)



Subject Overview

Biology is the study of life in all of its forms. It combines problem solving with practical skills and enables you to develop a scientific approach to the subject.

Biology at A level builds on the knowledge that students have already gained at GCSE.

The first year will focus on many of the fundamentals of biology: biological molecules, transport in and out of cells, cell structure and organisation, enzymes, DNA replication, protein synthesis, mutations and patterns of inheritance, evolution, adaptation and animal and plant physiology.

The second year will build on these by delving into some important and fascinating subjects such as: photosynthesis and respiration, speciation, microbiology, diseases and immunology, muscle structure and the nervous system.

Subject Information – A level Biology

Component /Unit/Exam paper	Weighting	Title	Details
Paper 1	35% of A level		<u>Externally assessed</u> Any content from topics 1– 4, including relevant practical skills written exam: 2 hours 91 marks
Paper 2	35% of A level		<u>Externally assessed</u> Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills written exam: 2 hours 91 marks
Paper 3	30% of A level		<u>Externally assessed</u> Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills written exam: 2 hours 78 marks

What opportunities this course could lead to:

Biology is an exciting and rapidly developing subject with a central place in the future of our society. Every week Biology is in the news with developments in our understanding of genetics, evolution and disease.

A qualification in Biology aims to not only equip students with sound scientific knowledge and understanding of biological concepts and scientific processes, but to also offer opportunities to explore the ethical and moral issues related to the effects of human activities on biological systems.

Careers in medicine and medically-related disciplines, such as pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, nursing, midwifery and medical microbiology, all require knowledge of Biology. Biology is also an important component for most psychology degrees, owing to cognitive and abnormal psychology components. In short, it provides a solid foundation for progression into a diverse range of science courses as well as humanities based disciplines. Alternatively, it may help you straight into the world of work or some work-based further training.

Former students of Oasis Academy Hadley have gone on to study dentistry, medicine, biomedical science, natural sciences at degree level at Russell group universities.

Course requirements:

You will need a grade 6 or above preferably in GCSE Biology.

You can enter the A-level Biology course having studied Combined Science. However, you will need a grade 6 or higher in Combined Science and be willing to complete some additional transition work during the summer break.

Useful websites:

The specification –

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/specification-at-a-glance>