



Students studying this course say:

“Biology is academically challenging but also very practical, meaning that there is something to engage everyone. There are many opportunities to further your knowledge e.g. with experiments which allow you to put techniques into action. It is a highly rewarding and captivating subject and I would recommend it”

Bridget

“Biology is an intriguing subject that enlightens the mechanisms of life. The practical's and topics

cover a wide range of fascinating topics. It is the learning process that is the most enjoyable. How do our heart work? How do our plants have which controls growth.”

Aghita



Succeeding Together

Trinity Sixth Form

A Level Biology



What is the level of course I will take?

AS Level - Level 3 – AQA 2411

How will I be assessed?

All assessment is by examination at the end of the course. There is no coursework, although there is a practical skills endorsement. Terminal assessments in Year 13 are as follows – the Topics are shown on the next page.

- Paper 1: Topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills. It is a written exam: 2 hours with 91 marks worth 35% of the A-Level.
- Paper 2: Topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills. It is a written exam: 2 hours with 91 marks worth 35% of the A-Level.
- Paper 3: Topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills. It is a written exam: 2 hours with 78 marks worth 30% of the A-level.

All papers include assessment of practical skills and a range of question types, including extended answers, comprehension, critical analysis and an essay.

How will the course help me after Sixth Form?

Careers for biologists exist in areas other than medicine, veterinary science, dentistry or farming. Biologists find employment in horticulture, pharmacy, biochemistry, microbiology, brewing and distilling.

For courses in medicine and veterinary science it is not sufficient to be good at Biology, you must excel in all your sciences at A-Level and across the board at GCSE. For medicine some universities require you to take Biology alongside the compulsory Chemistry A-Level.

What will I learn?

There are 8 units in total. Units 1-4 are covered in year 12 and units 5-8 are covered in year 13.

- 1) **Biological molecules:** Structure and function of the building blocks of life, including monosaccharide's, DNA & ATP.
- 2) **Cells:** The structure of eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells and how scientists study them.
- 3) **Organisms exchange substances with their environment:** Gas exchange, digestion and absorption and mass transport in plants.
- 4) **Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms:** Cell division, mutations, protein synthesis, adaptations, diversity in environments.
- 5) **Energy transfers in and between organisms:** Photosynthesis, respiration, food chains and nutrient cycles
- 6) **Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments:** Nervous co-ordination and homeostasis.

How will I learn?

~~You will learn about the control of gene expression, transcription, translation, recombinant DNA technology, DNA and collaborative study as well as research. There is a heavy cancer and DNA fingerprinting.~~

component on practical work with 12 compulsory practical activities for the AQA examination board. These practical tasks must be completed for you to be successful at A-Level. The skills from the practical tasks are assessed in the terminal examinations.