



Biology

Why study Biology?

Biology is exciting, relevant to daily life and challenging. The course will extend your understanding of how animals and organisms work, how we evolved and the things that can make us sick or improve our health. You would be able to apply this knowledge to a variety of biological situations; trying to stop the spread of disease, tracking down natural resources, improving public health, animal care and conservation and working out the true impacts of things like pollution.

What skills will I gain from studying Biology?

As with the other sciences, biology helps you to build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. Practical work is built into the course and all practical work is recorded in a lab book, developing your ability to communicate scientific understanding. You are likely to find yourself working on group projects, which will help you build your teamwork and communication skills too. Communicating biological concepts are also developed for the longer answer questions and an essay.

Having studied Biology what opportunities will be open to me?

Students gaining Biology A level have gone on to study medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary science, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research.

Rachel Lambert-Forsyth, director of education and training at the Society of Biology, says: "Biology opens up exciting career possibilities. From conservation to cancer research, biologists are tackling important 21st century challenges, and we need skilled young people to be part of this."

Other students have entered Environmental degrees such as Ecology, Environmental Engineering and Land Management. Less well known, but growing in popularity, are applied courses such as Biotechnology, Applied Microbiology, Biophysics and Crop Management.

It is also important to remember that biology is excellent preparation for non-scientific careers, thanks to the skills it provides – everything from analytical thinking to writing reports.

Entry requirements

6 in Triple Science Biology **or** 6-6 in Combined Science and 5 in Maths.

Exam Board – AQA Specification code/no. – 7402

Topics covered in Year 12

Biological molecules; cells; exchange of substances and genetic information and variation.

Topics covered in Year 13

Energy transfers; response to the environment; genetics and gene expression.