

Biology

Qualifications

Exam board: OCR H420 (A2)

A Level in Biology (two year course only)

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 passes at grade 5 or grade C (including English and Maths). A minimum of 2 grade 6's in Science.

Skills Required

You will need to be well motivated and committed to be successful on this course. An interest in Biology is essential of course, but aspects of the syllabus require some understanding of chemistry and competence in Mathematics. There is also a fair amount of practical work, some of which needs to be completed and recorded in a practical file over the two year A level course for the practical endorsement.

Course Outline

The modules include many of the popular topics covered in GCSE Science/Biology. Practical skills are integrated within the theoretical work and the course is extremely well resourced including text books and the Kerboodle online package. During the two years visits to the University, Wembury Marine Reserve and Dartmoor Wildlife Park are arranged.

In addition to terminal examinations students will carry out a practical endorsement for Biology.

Student Testimony

Quote from the end of year 12 survey:

“Biology is challenging and rewarding. It involves lots of Mathematics and reading outside the lesson to pass.”

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Biology is relevant! From human health and medicines to genetics and the environment, you will find something to interest you. There are many higher education and career opportunities. It is obviously a passport to biologically based courses and careers like medicine, nursing, veterinary science, sports studies, psychology, forensics, teaching, conservation and many more, but also to other courses and career pathways where a science qualification will always have 'currency'.

Year 12	Year 13
Breadth in Biology Multiple choice, structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills 1½ hour written examination	Paper 1 - Biological Processes Multiple choice, structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills 2 hour 15 minute written examination 37% of A level
Depth in Biology Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills 1½ hour written examination	Paper 2 - Biological Diversity Multiple choice, structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills 2 hour 15 minute written examination 37% of A Level
	Paper 3 - Unified Biology Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills 1½ hour written examination 26% of A Level