

# Sixth Form

## GCE A Level Biology

### Duration:

Two years for A level. A level Biology is composed of 8 topic modules which are examined along with the relevant practical skills in three written examinations. A level students will be awarded a practical endorsement if they have satisfactorily completed the required practical work over the two year course.

### Specification:

A level (7402)  
*Further details are available from their website*

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

### Entry Requirements/Student Suitability:

Students are required to achieve:

- Grade 5/6 or above **any two** of the following GCSEs
  - \* Core Science GCSE
  - \* Additional Science GCSE
  - \* Further Additional GCSE
  - \* Biology GCSE
  - \* Chemistry GCSE
  - \* Physics GCSE

In addition to these Science GCSEs you also need

- Grade 5/6 or above in a Maths GCSE

### Course Content:

#### A Level

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

**Paper 1** 2 hours Topics 1-4 91 marks 35% of A level

**Paper 2** 2 hours Topics 5-8 91 marks 35% of A level

**Paper 3** 2 hours Topics 1-8 78 marks 30% of A level

**Papers 1 and 2** include short and long answer questions

**Paper 3** includes structured questions including practical techniques, critical analysis of given experimental data and an essay question

*For further information and exemplar question papers see the exam board web site.*

### Methods of Study:

Class discussion  
Note taking  
Practical activities  
Group work on presentations  
Independent research  
Modelling  
Practice exam questions  
Field work

### Independent Study Time:

Do living things fascinate you? How does the science of genetics work? What effect does biology have on the environment? Students are expected to have a genuine interest and enthusiasm for the subject with the willingness to put in many hours of extra study to back up the work covered in lessons. There will be at least one piece of homework per week, including practice exam questions. Frequent interim tests are given to assess progress and understanding.

### Progression and the Future:

If you are considering applying to university to study biology, zoology, ecology, animal science, marine biology, life sciences, medicine, environmental science, forensic science or any other subject related to the natural world, then A-level Biology is essential.

Possible career choices that require A-level Biology include: biological testing, biotechnology, independent research, food industry jobs, nutrition, medicine, doctor, nurse, veterinarian, zoologist, zookeeper, animal care, veterinary nurse, scientist, amongst a huge range of others.

### Subject Contacts:

**Mrs K Goodwin**

[kgoodwin@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:kgoodwin@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)

### How to Apply:

The Application Process begins in November of each year. Please contact Debbie Chick, Sixth Form Administrator, for further information or to request an application form.

[sixthform@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)

For further information and to apply for this course:

Please contact Debbie Chick, Sixth Form Support

[sixthform@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)

Telephone 01208 893905