



Biology

What is the exam board and route?

Biology AQA: 7402 (linear)
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

Subject entry requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE Biology and GCSE Maths is advised.

Subject outline

The specification provides full detail of the eight topics studied:

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. Control of gene expression

How is the course assessed?

Three two-hour written papers are taken at the end of Year 13.

There is no separate practical assessment; practical competency is continually assessed during regular class practical work and questions assessing practical skills will be included on the written papers.

Why study this subject?

We are one of the largest departments at LGS with 6 fully equipped labs and 9 highly dedicated teachers. We pride ourselves on our examination support giving the best possible chance of success. A comprehensive textbook is provided together with extensive support material. Biologists attend a residential Field Course in the summer months to enhance their learning; this field course is compulsory and costs approximately £250. We also offer a wide range of Enrichment Activities including lunch time clubs, trips and regional essay competitions as well as a schedule of visiting speakers to extend pupils' appreciation of the application of Biology outside school.

Complementary subjects

Chemistry, Geography, PE, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology.

Possible careers

A Level Biology provides applicants to Higher Education with a multiplicity of degree choices in both biological and non-biological areas. Pupils have applied successfully for a wide range of Biological degrees including Microbiology, Zoology, Plant Science, Applied Genetics, Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Marine Biology. While the department has a major tradition of preparing candidates for the medical professions, with support sessions and events such as interview evenings, many pupils have used Biology to complement quite different subjects. Many have successfully gained places at Oxbridge for disciplines as diverse as Mathematics, Law and Geography utilising their Biology A Level.



Subject enrichment available

Weekly drop-in help surgery
Examination technique training sessions (Year 13)
Targeted support sessions (Year 13)
Senior Dissection Club, Beast Club, Bee Keeping Club, Pond Club, Animal Husbandry
Leadership roles in Junior Dissection Club, Biology Masterclasses, coordinating Biology
Week events and Bio Bake Off
Extensive programme of visiting speakers: practicing scientists from various Biology fields
National and regional essay competitions and Olympiads
Medic Society to support students applying for medical school together with extensive support during the application process such as interview evenings.
Weekly enrichment sessions for Oxbridge applicants.

