

Exam board / website: AQA Biology ALevel

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



# Hillcrest Sixth Form

Biology



## What does studying Biology involve?

The aims of this course are to encourage students to develop their interest and enthusiasm for studying Biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Biology; appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the science contribute to the success of the economy and society; develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding on *How Science Works*; develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.

## What skills will I develop?

Key Skills are integral to the study of A level Biology and may be assessed through the course. The following key skills can be developed through the Biology course:

- Communication
- Investigation and Problem Solving
- Data Collection and Evaluation
- Information and Communication Technology
- Working with Others
- Taking Responsibility for Own Learning and Performance

## What subjects compliment Biology?

Most students studying Biology will combine their studies with subjects from Chemistry, Mathematics and Social Sciences.

## Where will the subject take me?

Those studying A Level in the past have gone on to study Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biology, Psychology, and Sports Science.

## Entry requirements:

Students are required to have gained a GCSE Science or Additional Science grade between an A\*-A in order to study GCE Biology.

## Course content:

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

## Assessment:

- Paper 1 assesses content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills
- 2 hour written exam (91 marks)
  - 35% of A-level
- Paper 2 assesses content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills
- 2 hour written exam (91 marks)
  - 35% of A-level
- Paper 3 assesses content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills
- 2 hour written exam (78 marks including 25 mark essay question)
  - 30% of A-level

## Suggested reading material:

Toole, G. and Toole, S. (2008) *AQA AS Biology*. Nelson Thornes, UK.  
Hirst, K. (2008) *AS Biology for AQA*. Collins, UK.  
Science articles such as New Scientists or BBC Focus

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