

A Level Biology

Why study Biology at A Level?

Biology is the study of life, from the single cell to the evolution and distribution of all living organisms – including you. You will begin to appreciate how the body works at a cellular level and how it copes with pressures like exams or disease.

You will discover how plants and animals respond to and interact with their surroundings, examining the effects of environmental change such as deforestation. Also, how the climate influences biodiversity and ecosystems around the world, and indeed what this means for all life on earth.

You will also need to consider ethical issues raised by advancements in science such as gene therapy and genetic engineering.

What will I study?

Most lessons will be covering new ground with as many as possible reinforcing ideas or carrying out practical tasks in preparation for endorsed practical work.

There are a wide range of topics, several of which explore the working of the human (and mammalian) body including: health and disease with some plant biology; genetics and gene technology; biotechnology; ecology and biodiversity. The last two are partly studied by completing field work.

Assessment

100% examined.

Paper 1: Written exam of 2 hours 15 minutes in length consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Paper 2: Written exam of 2 hours 15 minutes in length consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Paper 3: Written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes in length, consisting of short and long answer questions.

Study trips, visits and events

You will enjoy a 3 day field trip to Margam in Wales to build confidence and put into practice what is taught in the ecology module.

Subject entry requirements

6-6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology, plus 5 in Maths.