

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

## Why Biology?

With A level Biology, you will gain an insight into the amazing complexities and astonishing truths about life on Earth. From life chemicals to cells, from tissues to organs, from organ systems to organisms this exciting course will develop your detailed knowledge and understanding of living organisms and life processes. There is a mixture of animal and plant biology plus ecology with field work and applications in the modern world such as genetic engineering, the control of gene expression and forensic biology.

During your studies, you will develop your scientific knowledge and skills in data handling, graph work and statistics. Practical work will include microscopic examination of specimens, dissection of organs, field sampling skills and a range of scientific techniques.

## Residential Trip

A highlight of Year 12 is our four day residential trip to Dale Fort Field Studies Centre in Pembrokeshire.

## Assessment

35% - Paper 1 - Year 12 Content

35% - Paper 2 - Year 13 Content

30% - Paper 3 - Synoptic

Practical endorsement assessed during lessons (pass/fail)

## Recommended Reading

AQA A level Biology Textbook

AQA A level Biology Revision Guide

New A Level Biology: AQA Year 1 & 2 Complete Revision and Practice with Online Edition

<https://www.kerboodle.com>

## Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE Biology or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science

Grade 6 GCSE English and Mathematics

Students who have studied Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays.

## Future Pathways

University degrees in Biological Sciences (e.g. Marine, Zoology, Microbiology, Conservation, Neuroscience, Biomedical, Physiology, Genetics, Food Science). Careers and apprenticeships in Science based Journalism, Paramedical Services, Conservation, Lab Technician, Zoo Keeper, Research, Industry and Teaching.

## Complementary A Levels

Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Core Maths

## Extra & Super Curricular

Attend a DNA lab-based workshop in Bristol in Year 13 to experience the equipment and techniques usually reserved for university laboratories. Turn theory into practice and use DNA extraction, PCR techniques and gel electrophoresis, to determine your own genotype in relation to the bitter-tasting chemical PTC.

*“I always enjoyed Biology at GCSE but the A Level is even better than I had imagined.”*