

# KS5 GCE Biology

## What will I learn?

A level Biology explores the theories and principles involved in living systems. Topics you will learn about include: lifestyle, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment, the natural environment and species survival, energy, exercise and coordination, as well as practical biology and research skills. By the end of the course you will know about the principles of genetics, molecules, natural selection, evolutionary theory, global warming, bacteria and viruses, and more.

## How will I be assessed?

The exam board that Biddenham School follows for Biology at A level is AQA. The qualifications are linear. Linear means that you will sit all the AS exams at the end of your AS course and all the A-level exams at the end of your A-level course.

- Paper 1 first year content. 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper 2 second year content. 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper 3 all content (synoptic) including essay. 2 hours.

## What are the entry requirements?

English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Combined Science GCSE or Biology GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Students should also consider studying A-Level Mathematics.

## What are the costs?

There are no mandatory costs to study biology. We suggest the use of a textbook that is £10 but this is paid on a deposit basis. The textbook is also freely available online as are all of the resources used in lessons.

## The demands of the course

Biology is not an easy subject, though it can be very rewarding.

This course requires students to consistently work hard, complete classwork, homework, independent study and practise past paper questions. This course does blend well with both chemistry, psychology and mathematics though neither are required they can be helpful in understanding key ideas.

## Future opportunities

Biology is a versatile subject that allows students access to many areas of future study and professions. This will be an essential A-level for students wanting to pursue medical careers and medical based sciences at University. In addition to the study of biology, students could go on to study and then work in fields such as, dentistry, midwifery, ecology and environmental sciences and many more!

Useful websites to visit, to help with the course:

<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/biology>

<https://biologyguide.app/>

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

<https://www.beep.ac.uk/content/1.0.html>

<https://www.biologyonline.com/>

<https://www.cellsalive.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/bozemanscience/videos>