

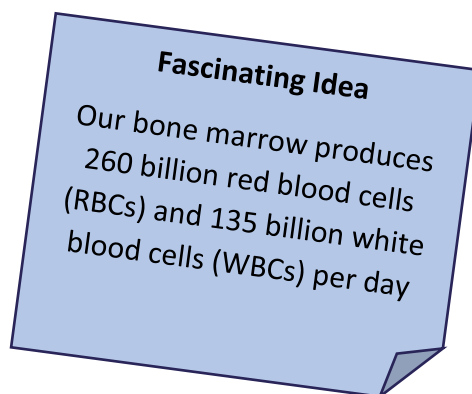
Clarendon Academy Sixth Form: Subject Essentials

Biology

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: A-level Biology (7402)

How am I examined in this subject?



A level Biology is examined through three exam papers and a Practical Endorsement

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Assessed: any content from topics 1-4 (year 12 chapters), including relevant practical skills	Assessed: any content from topics 5-8 (year 13 chapters), including relevant practical skills	Assessed: any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills
written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level	written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level	written exam: 2 hours 78 marks 30% of A-level
76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions 15 marks: extended response questions	76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions 15 marks: comprehension question	38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques. 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data 25 marks: one essay from a choice of 2 titles

How are my responses assessed?

During each paper, you are assessed on three assessment objectives:

- **AO1:** demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures
- **AO2:** demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures in a theoretical context, in a practical context, when handling qualitative data and when handling quantitative data
- **AO3:** Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to:
 - Make judgements and reach conclusions
 - Develop and refine practical design and procedures

Practical endorsement: This is a pass/fail based on practical skills and lab book work. A pass grade is essential if you intend to apply for a BSc at university

What do I have to achieve at GCSE to study this subject? You need to achieve at least a grade 6 in either Biology (separate science) or a grade 6/6 in combined science at GCSE in order to study Biology at A-Level.

How could this subject support my future education or career? Biology is a fascinating, interesting and complex subject to study. A level biology is more just a science subject; you will continue to develop your maths, English and practical skills whilst learning about how the natural world functions and interacts.

How do we support students who are aiming for A/A* grades?

- We encourage our most able students to read widely around the subject. We provide access to scientific journals and texts in order to give our most able students the best opportunities to expand their knowledge beyond the specification.
- Our most able students are strongly encouraged to apply for opportunities offered by top Russell group universities. We have recently had several year 12 students accepted onto a course at Bristol University which is aimed at preparing students who wish to study Health sciences (medicine, veterinary science, dentistry). We will also support students in their applications for schemes such as the Sutton Trust summer school (free subject-specific summer schools at 13 top universities).
- We invite guest speakers from local universities to deliver lectures to our students.
- We provide opportunities for our students to link up with former students who have been successful in their scientific studies and careers. They may use these links to help them prepare for university interviews for example.
- Both teachers of A-level biology (Dr. Chipperfield and Dr. Hidalgo-Curtis) have a wealth of post-degree experience in the biological field. Students are always encouraged to aim high and to look beyond the A-level biology course that is delivered in the classroom.

How do we support students who are finding this subject difficult?

- We have small class sizes, taught by experienced, well qualified staff.
- We have an excellent VLE where students can access revision resources, practise exam questions and online tutorials. These are particularly useful for students who need to recap on lesson content in their own time and at a slower pace.
- We can provide printed versions of the PowerPoint presentations and other notes we use in lessons for students who experience difficulties with the pace of lessons.
- We provide detailed and helpful feedback on the work that students submit to use and give them the opportunity to improve their work at regular opportunities. This is particularly important for students to improve their exam technique.

Who can I contact if I want to find out more?

Dr Kate Chipperfield (*Head of Biology / A-Level Biology Teacher*): klc@clarendonacademy.com

Dr Claire Hidalgo-Curtis (*A-Level Biology Teacher*): ceh@clarendonacademy.com