

BIOLOGY

Course

A level Biology

Exam Board

OCR Biology A level GCE

Entry requirements

GCSE Separate Biology Grade 6 or GCSE Combined Science Grade 6 6.

GCSE Maths Grade 6 essential.

GCSE English Grade 5 desirable.

Why study Biology?

A level Biology will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. It covers the key concepts of biology and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A level Biology highly appealing. You will study the core principles of biology and learn about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. The course builds on the concepts and skills that will have been developed in the new GCSE Biology specifications. It presents biology as exciting, relevant and challenging.

Course content

Content is divided into six teaching modules:

Module 1 - Development of practical skills in biology (This module underpins the whole of the specification and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course).

Module 2 - Foundations in biology (Cells, biological molecules, enzymes)

Module 3 - Exchange and transport (Exchange surfaces, transport in animals and plants)



St Peter's students say...

“You learn constantly, and it's so interesting. After every lesson I want to go away and find out more. It's a subject that motivates me and makes me want to learn.”

Module 4 - Biodiversity, evolution and disease (Communicable diseases, the immune system, biodiversity, classification, evolution)

Module 5 - Communication, homeostasis and energy (Hormones, the nervous system, excretion, animal and plant responses, photosynthesis, respiration)

Module 6 - Genetics, evolution and ecosystems (Cellular control, inheritance, manipulating genomes, cloning and biotechnology, ecosystems)

Assessment

The A level award is assessed by three examination papers:

Paper 1 - Biological processes
(100 marks total - 2hr 15 mins - weighting: 37%)

Paper 2 - Biological diversity
(100 marks total - 2hr 15 mins - weighting: 37%)

Paper 3 - Unified Biology
(70 marks total - 1hr 30 mins - weighting: 26%)

Progression after Sixth Form

The A level Biology course is designed to provide a suitable preparation for degree courses including; biological sciences, biochemistry, medicine, veterinary sciences, pharmacology, forensic science, microbiology, genetics, molecular biology, biotechnology, ecology, environmental sciences and sport sciences.

Career opportunities

Biology related careers include; research scientist, forensic scientist, doctor, nurse, physiotherapist, pharmacologist, agriculture, ecologist, sports scientist, nutritionist, biochemical engineer, environmental engineer, patent attorney, scientific journalism, teacher.

Other information

An A level Biology field course is conducted in North Wales in July of Year 12. The content of the course is aimed at facilitating the understanding of Module 6 and at developing the practical and analytical skills required in Module 1. For these reasons it is considered an integral part of the course.

For more information contact Head of Department:

Mr S. Drury - sdrury@stpetersacademy.org.uk