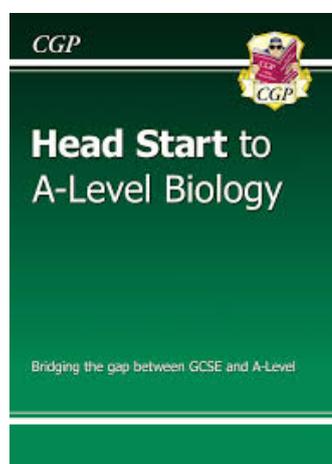


Progression to A Level Biology at Prior Pursglove College

The Biology department some activities for any student wishing to study Biology in September:

Head Start to A Level Biology

Free via Amazon Kindle app



This fantastic Head Start book from CGP is the ideal way to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level Biology. It recaps all the crucial topics you'll need to remember from GCSE, with crystal-clear study notes and examples, plus practice questions to test your understanding. We've also included introductions to some of the key topics you'll meet at A-Level. It's the perfect way to hit the ground running at the start of the course, whichever exam board you're studying!

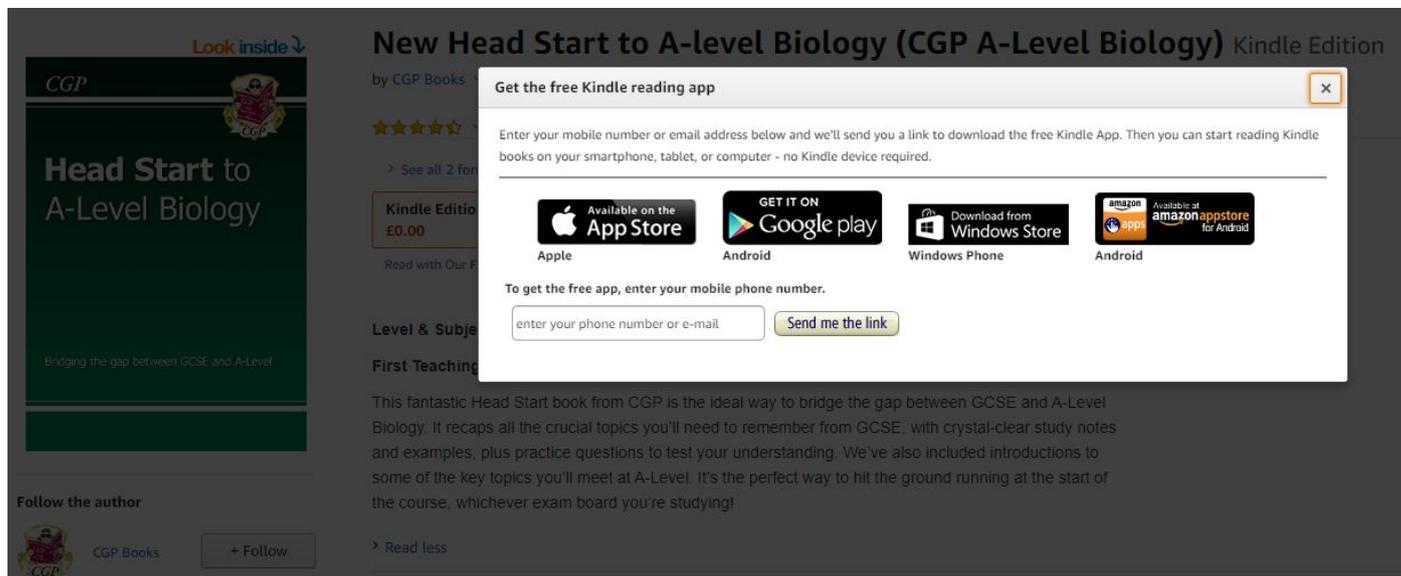
Work your way through the booklet answering the questions at the bottom of each page (answers are in the back on the book). This book covers most of the topics covered in Year 1 of the course and will prepare you well for studying A Level Biology next year.

Where to find this book

This book is currently free on Amazon in Kindle Format:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00VE2NIOI/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_E8YGEbAR6FE5E

You can download a free kindle reading app from the app store on your phone or via the windows store to read it on your computer.



New Head Start to A-level Biology (CGP A-Level Biology) Kindle Edition

by CGP Books

★★★★★

Kindle Edition £0.00

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Level & Subject: A-Level Biology

First Teaching: September 2015

This fantastic Head Start book from CGP is the ideal way to bridge the gap between GCSE and A-Level Biology. It recaps all the crucial topics you'll need to remember from GCSE, with crystal-clear study notes and examples, plus practice questions to test your understanding. We've also included introductions to some of the key topics you'll meet at A-Level. It's the perfect way to hit the ground running at the start of the course, whichever exam board you're studying!

Follow the author: CGP Books + Follow

Read less

Myheplus.com - a website run by Cambridge University

<https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/biology>

If you look at the Biology page there are a number of interesting topic areas where you can complete activities to learn more about Stem cells, different aspects of disease, Fungi etc.

Careers in Biology

<http://www.saps.org.uk/secondary/themes/849-careers-in-science>

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/students>

Broaden your understanding

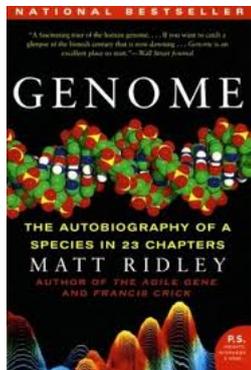
Watch TED talks, take a MOOC, read a popular science book

TED talks <https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=relevance&topics%5B%5D=Science&q=Biology> (not much commitment needed just watch and listen for 20-30 mins)

Coursera <https://www.coursera.org/search?query=biology&> (online courses that require a couple of hours per week for 6 weeks - more intensive but will keep you busy, develops academic study skills and something to write about on your Uni/job/apprenticeship applications)

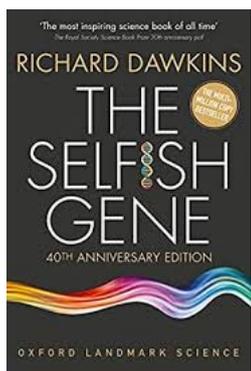
FutureLearn <https://www.futurelearn.com/search?q=Biology> similar to Coursera

Reading list:



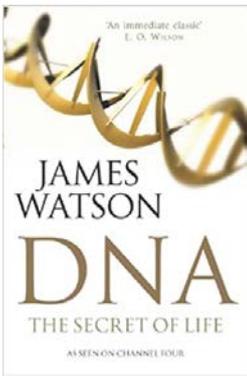
Genome by Matt Ridley

The most important investigation of genetic science since *The Selfish Gene*, from the author of the critically acclaimed and best-selling *The Red Queen* and *The Origins of Virtue*. The genome is our 100,000 or so genes. The genome is the collective recipe for the building and running of the human body. These 100,000 genes are sited across 23 pairs of chromosomes. *Genome*, a book of about 100,000 words, is divided into 23 chapters, a chapter for each chromosome. The first chromosome, for example, contains our oldest genes, genes which we have in common with plants. By looking at our genes we can see the story of our evolution, what makes us individual, how our sexuality is determined, how we acquire language, why we are vulnerable to certain diseases, how mind has arisen. *Genome* also argues for the genetic foundations of free will. While many believe that genetics proves biological determinism, Ridley will show that in fact free will is itself in the genes. Everything that makes us human can be read in our genes. Early in the next century we will have determined the function of every one of these 100,000 genes.



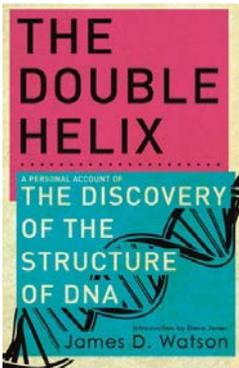
The selfish gene by Richard Dawkins

As influential today as when it was first published, *The Selfish Gene* has become a classic exposition of evolutionary thought. Professor Dawkins articulates a gene's eye view of evolution - a view giving centre stage to these persistent units of information, and in which organisms can be seen as vehicles for their replication. This imaginative, powerful, and stylistically brilliant work not only brought the insights of Neo-Darwinism to a wide audience, but galvanized the biology community, generating much debate and stimulating whole new areas of research. Forty years later, its insights remain as relevant today as on the day it was published.



DNA: The Secret of Life by James Watson

James Watson, the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA and author of the international bestseller *The Double Helix*, tells the story of the amazing molecule since its discovery fifty years ago, following modern genetics from his own Nobel prize-winning work in the fifties to today's Dolly the sheep, designer babies and GM foods. Professor Watson introduces the science of modern genetics, along with its history and its implications, in this magnificent guide to one of the most triumphant achievements of human science.

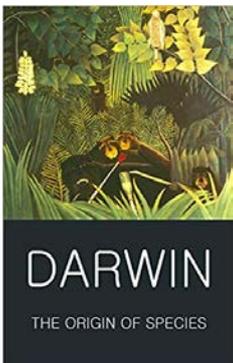


The Double Helix: Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA by James Watson

The story of the most significant biological breakthrough of the century - the discovery of the structure of DNA.

'It is a strange model and embodies several unusual features. However, since DNA is an unusual substance, we are not hesitant in being bold'

By elucidating the structure of DNA, the molecule underlying all life, Francis Crick and James Watson revolutionised biochemistry. At the time, Watson was only 24. His uncompromisingly honest account of those heady days lifts the lid on the real world of great scientists, with their very human faults and foibles, their petty rivalries and driving ambition. Above all, he captures the extraordinary excitement of their desperate efforts to beat their rivals at King's College to the solution to one of the great enigmas of the life sciences.



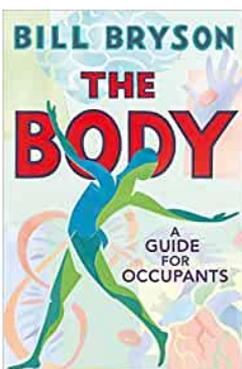
The origin of Species by Charles Darwin

A grain in the balance will determine which individual shall live and which shall die...!

Darwin's theory of natural selection issued a profound challenge to orthodox thought and belief: no being or species has been specifically created; all are locked into a pitiless struggle for existence, with extinction looming for those not fitted for the task.

Yet *the Origin of Species* (1859) is also a humane and inspirational vision of ecological interrelatedness, revealing the complex mutual interdependencies between animal and plant life, climate and physical environment, and - by implication - within the human world.

Written for the general reader, in a style which combines the rigour of science with the subtlety of literature, *The Origin of Species* remains one of the founding documents of the modern age.



The Body: A guide for occupants by Bill Bryson

We spend our whole lives in one body and yet most of us have practically no idea how it works and what goes on inside it. The idea of the book is simply to try to understand the extraordinary contraption that is us.



msc Medical
Schools
Council
Selection Alliance

Guidance on gaining relevant experience to study medicine in the time of Covid-19

April 2020



Introduction

It is a difficult time to try and gain relevant experience in healthcare. The NHS is focusing on dealing with the pandemic, outreach programs have been put on hold, and most paid employment opportunities have been stopped too.

In these circumstances, first time applicants to medicine will all be in the same situation. All medical schools are aware that the opportunities open to you have been affected and will take this into account. Consequently, medical schools will have to adapt their expectations to the situation applicants find themselves in.

What can I do about this?

Make sure to check the medical school's website for updates on work experience. Additionally, keep in mind that *clinical* work experience is not generally a requirement for applying to medical school in any year.

Why is gaining experience important?

It is important to remember why medical schools look for work experience in an application; this in turn can help you think of the numerous ways that you can demonstrate that you have acquired relevant experience. They want to see that you understand what a career in medicine involves. Work experience, and other related experiences, are only as valuable as the way you talk about them. While you will be expected to show some understanding of what it is like to be a doctor, part of this involves demonstrating that you know what it is like to work in a responsible role, particularly with the public.

What type of experience do I need?

The Medical Schools Council's guidance on work experience sets out what medical schools are looking for in terms of relevant experience to support an application to medical school. Work experience is any activity or life experience that helps you to prepare for medical school. This means any activity that allows you to demonstrate that you have:

- Had people-focused experience of providing a service, care, support or help to others, and that you understand the realities of working in a caring profession
- Developed some of the values, attitudes and behaviours essential to being a doctor such as conscientiousness, effective communication and the ability to interact with a wide variety of people. The values that medical schools are looking for are set out in the [NHS Constitution](#) and explained in MSC guidance on the [Core values and attributes needed to study medicine](#)
- A realistic understanding of medicine and in particular the physical, organisational and emotional demands of a medical career

Useful links



[Guidance on relevant experience for applying to medical school](#)



[Statement on the core values and attributes needed to study medicine](#)



[MSC Work Experience Infosheet](#)

Practical ways to gain experience

Keep a reflective diary on what is happening in the news and online

Many healthcare professionals are posting online about their experience of working during the pandemic. Listen to what they have to say and reflect on this. All healthcare professionals can be a valuable source of information and experience, not just doctors. After all, doctors work as part of large teams involving many healthcare professions, so demonstrating that you have a sense of those professions and how they work together will help you in both your personal statement and interview. Remember that some media sources are more reliable than others and that sometimes 'political spin' is put on articles to help create a headline.

Websites to explore may include:

- Newspaper pages such as the Guardian's [science](#) page and The Telegraph's [health](#) page
- The British Medical Journal's [open access information](#)
- TED Talks can provide useful [background information](#) on health topics
- Science or health related content on [Twitter](#)

Make use of online resources

There are some free online resources available that will give you a taste of what working in healthcare is all about. For example:

- Brighton and Sussex Medical School has created a free virtual [work experience course](#) which explores several different medical specialities
- The Royal College of General Practitioners has also created an interactive platform called [Observe GP](#) which highlights the many different aspects of working in primary care

Useful links

[Observe GP](#) is a free online platform providing insight into general practice.



Brighton and Sussex Medical School offers [virtual work experience](#) for prospective medical school applicants.



- The [NHS Health Careers](#) website provides insight into different careers and specialties within the health sector

Volunteer in your spare time, if you can

All forms of voluntary work can provide helpful work experience. Whilst volunteer work in the NHS might be disrupted at this time other schemes may still be in operation and worth exploring. Working with other people in a caring or service role, and in particular with people who are ill, disabled or disadvantaged is preferable, but will be difficult to arrange at this time. When undertaking any type of voluntary work, it is essential that you follow the Government's guidelines on social distancing.

Voluntary commitments to community groups (for example groups related to the work of churches, mosques and temples, or other groups such as Scouts or Guides) and online community support groups may also provide valuable experience of taking on responsibility, dealing with people and communicating effectively. It is likely that these sorts of volunteering opportunities will start to run again before healthcare related opportunities are available.

Remember: it is what you learn about yourself, about other people and about how effective care is delivered and received that counts. What you did is only a small part of the story; it is how you communicate what you learnt which matters.

Useful volunteering websites may include, but are not limited to:

- The [Do IT](#) website
- The [Nextdoor](#) website