

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

WHAT IS BIOLOGY?

Biology is the science of living things. It is concerned with the processes which occur in living organisms, how species and individuals come into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and with their environment.

WHY SHOULD I STUDY BIOLOGY?

You will need a Biology qualification for many professions, for example if you want to be a doctor, vet, physiotherapist or dentist. The best reason for studying Biology is because it interests you. The course is suited to those with an interest in Human Biology, the natural environment and genetics.

USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

The course suits those who like learning facts and understanding concepts, rather than a more creative approach. There is compulsory practical work, so it helps if you enjoy this. There is also a need to be able to use straightforward mathematical techniques, and to be able to express yourself clearly in written work.

COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT – AQA A LEVEL BIOLOGY (A)

The course content is split into 8 teaching modules:

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Exchange
4. Genetics and Variation
5. Energy Transfers
6. Responses
7. Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Eco-systems
8. Control of Gene Expression

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course will be assessed at the end of the two years. Each module will be assessed across three written examinations. Students will also have to complete a series of essential practical tasks.

COURSE COMMITMENT

A high level of commitment is required for this subject. Students will be expected to work independently, outside the classroom, for at least 4 hours per week. This will allow time to complete assignments set in class as well as to review current work regularly and revise for the internal and external examinations. There is a lot of support on offer from our teachers between lessons.



ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entrance on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for advanced study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9), including GCSE grade 6 or above in Combined Science or Triple Science (specifically Biology) English and Maths. You must also have a G score of 5.5 or above. To work out your G Score please go to the college website and click on the 16 – 18 tab and then entry requirements. If you are not sure how to work this out please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help.

If you are unsure about achieving the higher grades in GCSE Science and would still like to do a science qualification you could consider the Applied Science course which is a viable alternative for a wide range of options.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Biologists go into health-related careers such as becoming Doctors, Dieticians, Radiographers, Pharmacists, Opticians and many more. They may combine Biology with other Life Science subjects, such as Physical Education or Psychology and enter careers in those areas. Forensics and Pharmacology are popular choices for Biology students, but there are many non-vocational degrees in Biology for those who want to study it at degree level but do not have a particular career in mind. Many degree courses that involve Biology will also require A Levels in Mathematics and/or Chemistry. For those students who prefer work-based training, Biology can provide the Science qualification that may be asked for.

Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Bradford University – **Biomedical Science / Clinical Sciences (Medicine Foundation)**
- Bristol University - **Medicine**
- Derby University – **Diagnostic Radiography**
- Hull University University– **Zoology / Criminology with Forensic Science**
- Leeds Met University – **Criminology / Speech & Language Therapy**
- Manchester Metropolitan University – **Biology with Study Abroad**
- Manchester University – **Biology**
- Newcastle University – **Medicine / Biology / Chemical Engineering / Biomedical Sciences / Zoology / Chemical Engineering with Process Control**
- Northumbria University– **Biomedical Sciences / Human Nutrition**
- Nottingham University – **Environmental Science**
- Sheffield University – **Medicine / PE and School Sport**
- Sunderland University – **Biopharmaceutical Science / Criminology / Pharmacy**
- Teesside University – **Sport & Exercise (Coaching Science) / Sports Therapy / Biological Sciences / Occupational Therapy / Forensic Psychology / Psychology**
- University College London - **Medicine**

STUDENT COMMENTS

What our Biology students say:

“Demanding and challenging subject but very worthwhile when you realise how much you’ve been able to learn and how valuable the knowledge is.”

“Biology is a very challenging yet interesting subject.”

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information please contact the Faculty Manager, Paul Grainger.

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.
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