

# Biology in the Sixth Form

# AS Level – Structure of Course

- Unit 1 – Biology and Disease

Includes :disease and lifestyle, cell structure, biological molecules, circulation and lungs.

- Unit 2 – The Variety of Living Organisms

Includes: genetics, diversity, taxonomy, transport in plants

- Unit 3 – Investigative and Practical Skills in AS Biology

# Investigative and Practical Skills

The centre assessed unit comprises of:

- Practical Skills Assessment (PSA)
- Investigative Skills Assessment (ISA)

PSA:

Assessed throughout the year while students are carrying out practical work:

- Following instructions
- Selecting and using equipment
- Organisation and safety

ISA:

An investigation where students:

- Undertake practical work and collect data
- Process the data
- Complete a written test

This is all done under test conditions.

# A2 Level – Structure of Course

- Unit 4 – Populations and Environment  
Includes: ecology, photosynthesis, respiration, population genetics.
- Unit 5 – Control in Cells and Organisms  
Includes: Nervous system, muscles, homeostasis, gene expression, protein synthesis, gene technology
- Unit 6 – Investigative and Practical Skills in A2 Biology

# A Level -- Assessment

- Unit 1 – 1 ½hr written paper  
33.3 % AS, 16.7% A2
- Unit 2 – 1 ¾hr written paper  
46.7% AS, 23.3% A2
- Unit 3 – centre assessed unit (PSA & ISA)  
20% AS, 10% A2
- Unit 4 – 1 ½hr written paper  
16.7% A2
- Unit 5 – 2 ¼hr written paper (includes synoptic questions)  
23.3% A2
- Unit 6 – centre assessed unit (PSA & ISA)  
10% A2

# IB Biology – Course Structure

Standard Level – total 150 hours:

- **Core topics** (inc. Cells, chemistry of life, genetics, evolution, ecology, human health and physiology)
- **Options** (Diet and Human Nutrition, Neurobiology and Behaviour)
- **Practical Investigations**
- **Group 4 Project**

# IB Biology – Course Structure

Higher Level – total 240 hours:

- **Core topics** (inc. Cells, chemistry of life, genetics, evolution, ecology, human health and physiology)
- **Additional Higher Level topics**
- **Options** (Neurobiology and Behaviour, Further Human Physiology)
- **Practical Investigations**
- **Group 4 Project**

# Internal Assessment

Practical work is assessed over the 2 year course.

- Design
- Data collection and processing
- Manipulative Skills
- Personal Skills

Each is marked out of 6 and the two best pieces in each skill area are submitted.

# IB – Assessment

3 Written papers sat at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1 – multiple choice
- Paper 2 – Section A: data analysis and short answer questions.  
Section B: Extended response questions
- Paper 3 – Short answer and extended response questions on options.

- Any questions please contact me on:

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