

Biology



Exam Board
OCR

Syllabus number
H420

Biology



King's
School

*“I like to define biology as the history
of the earth and all its life –
past, present and future”*

Rachel Carson

Course entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or two Grade 6s in the Combined Science. Grade 6 or above in Mathematics would be beneficial.

Why should I study Biology?

Biologists are scientists who study the natural world and all the living things in it, from the largest mammals down to our very own microscopic DNA. They try to understand how animals and organisms work, how we evolved and the things that can make us sick or improve our health. Biologists use this knowledge to do things like try to stop the spread of disease, track down natural resources, improve public health, animal care and conservation and work out the true impacts of things like pollution. Biology helps you to build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills.

What does the course look like?

The content is split into six teaching modules:

- **Module 1** Development of practical skills in biology
- **Module 2** Foundations in biology
- **Module 3** Exchange and transport
- **Module 4** Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- **Module 5** Communication, homeostasis and energy
- **Module 6** Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment Overview:

- Biological processes (01): 2 hour 15 minutes written paper (37% of total A Level)
- Biological diversity (02): 2 hour 15 minutes written paper (37% of total A Level)
- Unified biology (03): 1 hour 30 minutes written paper (26% of total A Level)
- Practical endorsement in biology (04): non-exam assessment. Reported separately

How will I learn?

The course features a wide range of teaching and learning approaches and methods, including practical work, interactive classroom study, group tasks, private study and lab based practical activities. Outside of lessons there are opportunities to visit university labs and undertake fieldwork.

What kind of things might the subject lead me to?

Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. The list is long and includes nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research. Several sports related courses such as physiotherapy and sports therapy also require biology.