

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you.

Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

## Topics covered

AS Biology is one year long, with exams at the end.

A-level Biology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows the topics you will study in each year.

AS and first year of A-level	Second year of A-level
1. Biological molecules	5. Energy transfer in and between organisms
2. Cells	6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment	7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	8. The control of gene expression

## Practicals

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating animal behaviors
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

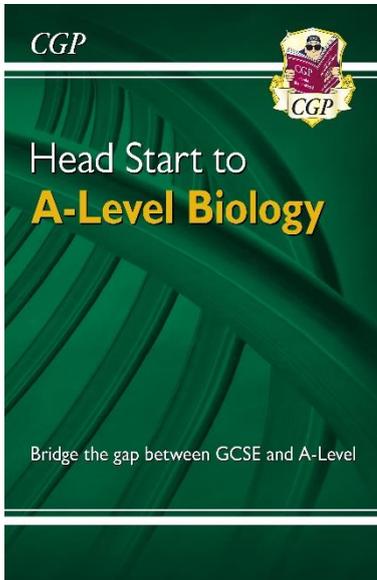
## Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed.

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

The AS has two exams at the end of the year. Both are 1 hour 30 minutes long.

## Summer Bridging Project



**Task 1:** Purchase **one large lever arch folder with dividers** and **one A4 small folder with dividers** along with a **pad of A4 paper**.

**Task 2:** Complete the *Head Start to A-Level Biology*. Please purchase one of these books and complete in an exercise book given to you. Available for £3.71 from Amazon or WHSmith.

This bridging project will be **graded**, and this mark will go towards your **Unit 1 report** that is sent home in October.

**Task 3:** Be ready for September, tick off your first day checklist:

- Black Pen x 3
- Green Pen x 2
- Highlighters
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Calculator
- Mini White Board
- Mini White Board Pen
- A4 Folder with dividers
- Laptop/ Tablet
- Small A4 folder with dividers
- A4 Pad of lined paper
- Bridging project

Have a lovely summer and enjoy your bridging project.  
We look forward to teaching Biology to you in September.

Ms Blevins and Ms Mosley