

# Biology / Bioleg



**Subject Leader:** Dr A Jones    **Examination Board:** WJEC

Students should have attained a minimum of a B grade in either GCSE Biology (Separate Science) although it is highly recommended that they have attained an A grade, or BB in Double Award Science with an A grade in the Biology component.

## Course Outline

A Level Biology provides a fascinating insight into a variety of different topics. These range from the internal workings of organisms in physiology, the effects of disease on different organisms and the interdependence of living things in ecology, to social issues including human influence on the environment. The study of Biology therefore encourages an appreciation of these issues and their implications, as well as providing an insight into the living world. The broad objectives are:

- to provide a broad factual base and skills
- to stimulate an interest in the subject
- to facilitate a critical appreciation of issues arising from the subject

The course is taught through a variety of methods which include individual research, group work, practical investigations and class teaching. Students are encouraged to read widely around the topics studied thus developing self-discipline and building up a sound knowledge of the subject.

## Entry Requirements

It is essential that students achieve a minimum grade B or above in Biology GCSE (Higher) or BB in Double Award Science with an A grade in the Biology component. This ensures that a student possesses the required background knowledge needed at A level. This is a very challenging course and requires students to have a committed approach to study both in and out of lessons

## What will I study?

The Biology syllabus covers a wide range of topics including Biochemistry, Cell structure, the Physiology of the Human Body, Homeostasis, Genetics and Evolution. Some of these topics have been introduced at GCSE Level; others will be a new experience for students.

## How will I be assessed?

Year 12		% of Qualifications
Unit 1	Basic Biochemistry and Organisation	20
Unit 2	Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems	20

  

Year 13		% of Qualifications
Unit 3	Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment	25
Unit 4	Variation, Inheritance and Options	25
Unit 5	Practical Examination	10

**AS Units 1 and 2** – 1hr 30 mins written assessment.

**A2 Units 4 and 5** – Written assessment.

**Practical Examination** – 10% of qualification completed in Year 13 but practical skills developed throughout the whole course.

## Career Opportunities & Progression

This course provides an excellent foundation for the study of Biology or related courses, e.g. biomedical sciences, including medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, in further and higher education if desired. However, it will also provide students not intending to study Biology at a higher level with a useful and worthwhile course.