

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Biology

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 77 in GCSE Combined Science. Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Awarding body: OCR

About the subject: Biology is the study of life, and whilst it helps students to understand how the living organisms “work”, it also develops an understanding of how, as a species, we connect to the world in which we live. We follow the OCR specification covering the material presented in modules 1 to 4 in Year 12. Learners then continue studying the full A Level content in Year 13. There is also the internally assessed Practical Endorsement skills certificate, which is based on practical skills developed throughout the course. The teaching of practical skills is fully integrated with theoretical topics, and practical skills are assessed through written papers. A Level Biology builds on the existing GCSE Biology and Double Award qualifications. The courses have been specifically designed to provide a rewarding experience across the ability range which genuinely challenges the most able students. The course follows a content-led approach, where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of Biology.

A Level Biology offers:

- The sharpening of critical thinking and problem-solving skills by addressing issues which are relevant to our everyday experience (e.g. medical advances, including the controversial use of human foetal tissue in biomedical research).
- The union of hands-on experience of biological reactions and in-depth theory which underpin the ability to apply existing knowledge in new situations.

A Level Biology can help you with any Science-based careers, such as Medicine and allows you to transfer several of the skills you have learnt to other fields, such as Finance Analysis and Health Services Management.

Assessment:

Course Overview	Assessment Overview	
Year 12 Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Biology Module 2 – Foundations in Biology Module 3 – Exchange and transport Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease Year 13 Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Biology Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems	Biological processes (01) 100 marks (2 hour 15 minutes) Content from modules 1, 2, 3, 5	37% of total A level
	Biological diversity (02) 100 marks (2 hour 15 minutes) Content from modules 1, 2, 4, 6	37% of total A level
	Unified Biology (03) 70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes) Content from all modules (1 to 6)	26% of total A level
	Practical endorsement in Biology (04) (Non-exam assessment)	Pass or Fail