



A Level Syllabus and Assessment Structure:

As you embark upon your study of A Level Biology (7402) through the AQA exam board, you will begin in September to explore **3.1 Biological Molecules** and **3.2 Cells**. The A Level Biology specification can be found at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-7401-7402-SP-2015.PDF>

As well as developing skills, knowledge and understanding in Biology and the necessary literacy skills to communicate your ideas, you will also need to demonstrate competence in applying practical and mathematical skills, as well as the ability to apply your understanding to unfamiliar contexts. Such knowledge and skills will all be assessed through a variety of means including short answer, comprehension and extended response questions within the three exam papers that you will sit at the end of Year 13.

Assessments

| Paper 1 | + | Paper 2 | + | Paper 3 |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills | | What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills | | What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills |
| Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level | | Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level | | Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 2 hours 78 marks 30% of A-level |
| Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions 15 marks: extended response questions | | Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions 15 marks: comprehension question | | Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles |

If you have any questions, please contact me at jmillatt@lrgs.org.uk

Mr J Millatt
Head of Biology

Required
 (Task Time: 3 hrs)

The following YouTube channel can be very useful for A Level students. Please subscribe to [Miss Estruch Biology](#)

Watch the first two podcasts covering the first two units of work and make some notes:

- Biological Molecules** (37min 20sec)
<https://youtu.be/DxGU-8GYm5g?si=oMGk9SfcF7uEn1Ju>
- Cells** (59 min 08sec)
<https://youtu.be/C88QynEYPXo?si=ELpfJ4MMxziPQuRx>



Highly Recommended
(Task Time: 5 hrs)

In addition, to reach the highest grades, you must engage in wider reading around the subject to develop your understanding beyond the specification and be driven by a genuine interest. It is our hope that we can inspire you to pursue a future career within Science and particularly within the many different areas of Biology.

The following is a reading list that is applicable to all A Level Biologists. Choose at least one book to read over the summer.

L6: Recommended reading list

- **Sapiens: A brief history of humankind** by Yuval Noah Harari
- **Selfish Gene** by Richard Dawkins
- **English Pastoral** by James Rebanks
- **Eating to Extinction** by Dan Saladino

The Wainwright Prize winners are also great Biology related reads:

<https://wainwrightprize.com/>

The Royal Society - Trivedi Science Book Prize also has some popular science literature:

<https://royalsociety.org/medals-and-prizes/science-book-prize/>

Optional

Make a start on this award:

LRGS Biology Award

Complete the core challenge and choose 4 other challenges to earn your Biology lapel badge

CORE CHALLENGE!
Choose a biology related book to read and write a short book review.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Take a photograph which could be entered for the RSB or Fungus day photography competition | Improve your local community by completing a litter pick | Encourage wildlife into your garden | Attend a Biology week or Science week event |
| Raise awareness of endangered animals and plants | Bake a biology themed cake which could be entered for the RSB Biobakes competition | Design your 'ultimate predator' and explain its adaptations | Attend a biology or science club for a half term |
| Grow a plant from seed at home, you could grow your own fruit or veg | Take part in the RSPB big garden birdwatch | Visit your local zoo, wildlife oasis or nature reserve | Write a poem on the subject of nature, conservation or the environment |
| Produce a fact sheet on an animal or plant of your choice | Choose a biology topic to present to your form, biology class or lunchtime club. | Create some artwork inspired by nature, conservation or the environment | Help the biology department during an open day/open evening |

When you have completed all 5 challenges, e-mail any documents/photographs to: knewton@lrgs.org.ukand wear your lapel badge with pride!
[Please consider health and safety when completing the activities]
Did you know.....many of the activities can also be used as evidence towards the **green** Blue Peter Badge!