

Biology A-level

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Why King's?

Facilities

- Five well-equipped laboratories
- Departmental library
- Excellent practical resources

Highlights

- High number of students move on to study biomedical related courses at university

Why do Students opt for a Level Biology?

There are a variety of reasons why Biology is a popular A level option. For some, it is useful with regards to choice of their future career such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. In other cases, it is studied purely for an interest in the living world. It is possibly the most dynamic and rapidly progressing field of scientific research and offers many opportunities for those who study it.

The Course

The course we follow is the Pearson Biology B Specification. There are 10 topics that we teach over the two year course. These topics are:

Topic 1: Biological Molecules

Topic 2: Cells, Viruses and Reproduction of Living Things

Topic 3: Classification & Biodiversity

Topic 4: Exchange & Transport

Topic 5: Energy for Biological Processes

Topic 6: Microbiology and Pathogens

Topic 7: Modern Genetics

Topic 8: Origins of Genetic Variation

Topic 9: Control Systems

Topic 10: Ecosystems

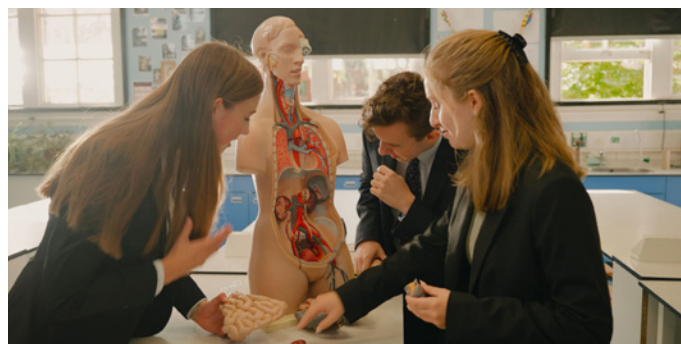
Topics 1 to 4 are taught first in the Lower Sixth to give students a good foundation upon which to follow the rest of the course.

“ Biology is a popular A level choice at King's with one of the highest uptakes of students. ”

Academic Performance

39% A*/A
82% A*-C

2023 A-level Results



Like all A-Level Biology courses, the course is assessed at the end of two years. There are three examination papers:

Paper	Topics	Marks	Time	Weighting
1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	90	1 hr 45 min	30%
2	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10	90	1 hr 45 min	30%
3	All topics	120	2 hr 30 min	40%

Course Delivery

There are currently six qualified Biology teachers and two technicians. Each class, of maximum size 16, will have two teachers splitting the course equally in order to give two different teaching styles.

Practical work is an integral part of the course and we are fortunate to have excellent resources to enable students to develop strong practical skills. Every opportunity is made to enrich the A level curriculum and encourage students to read beyond the normal boundaries of the A level specification.

Many students choose to undertake Biology related work experience placements and these have included: hospitals, pathology laboratories, animal behaviour research in Cambridge, environment agency, pollen institute, to name but a few.

The Biology department is located in its own dedicated building and has five fully equipped and recently refurbished laboratories. The department also houses a Sixth Form Library which is well stocked and has ICT facilities.