

Biology

Subject Information Sheet

Course Title:	Biology
Subject:	Biology
Qualification:	GCE A level
Exam Board:	OCR Specification A
General Course Description	Studying biology will enable you to find out why your siblings look like you do, find out how medicines work, what DNA is, whether clones really exist, and who Darwin was, for example. We hope that the course will promote curiosity, develop your understand of complex biological ideas and inspire the new generation of biologists.
Course Content and Teaching Units	<p>Modules 1-4 will be taught in Y12. Modules 5-6 are taught in Y13 (starting after summer mocks), however all modules are revisited as exams are linear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 1- Development of practical skills in biology• Module 2 – Foundations in biology• Module 3- Exchange and transport• Module 4- Biodiversity, evolution and disease• Module 5- Communication, homeostasis and energy• Module 6- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
Entry Requirements	<p>Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Triple Biology and a grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English language.</p> <p>Combined science students require a grade 7-7.</p>

Assessment	Throughout Y12 you will sit the following mock examinations:		
	Paper	Structure	What is it worth?
	February - Mixture of questions	Covers content in modules 1,2 and elements of 3 and 4 Multiple choice and written responses.	100% of mock
	May - Mixture of questions	Covers content in modules 1-4 Multiple choice and written responses.	100% of mock
	At the end of Y13 you will sit the following external examinations:		
	Paper	Structure	What is it worth?
	Paper 1- Biological principles	This paper will assess content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5	37% of your overall A level qualification
	Paper 2- Biological diversity	This paper will assess content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6	37% of your overall A level qualification
	Paper 3- Unified biology	This paper will assess content from all modules (1-6)	26% of your overall A level qualification
	Practical skills will be assessed throughout both years and evidence for this will be recorded in a lab book – this is the evidence required for the practical endorsement certificate. Practical skills will also be assessed in the final A level examinations.		
Financial Information	<p>Approximately £150 will be required in the autumn term of Y13 to cover the cost of the biology field course to Scarborough, however in the event of genuine financial hardship we may be able to provide assistance.</p> <p>Revision guides are provided; however, we ask for a £5 deposit per book which is refunded when returned at the end of the two year course.</p> <p>Revision workbooks will also be provided free of charge to support learning during the additional independent study sessions.</p>		
Progression Opportunities	A Level Biology is clearly a specialised science qualification, thus providing an excellent foundation for further study of Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biotechnology, Physiotherapy, Microbiology, Sports Science, and all aspects of Biology.		
Further Information about our courses including results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biology department at KES achieve excellent results – As of 2022, 68% of our students achieved A*-B grades, which is significantly higher than the national average (48%). 100% of our students achieved A*-D grades, which again is significantly higher than the NA again (84%). Scarborough field trip – Our annual, very successful Ecology field course that provides students with valuable life experience, as well as practical skills required for their practical endorsement qualification. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We run the Biology Olympiad (and Intermediate Biology Olympiad) every year for students who would like to enter and compete nationally. This looks great on UCAS applications.• Biology support is available every day. Please email your biology teacher or Mrs Birds to arrange a suitable time for 1-to-1 support.
--	--