

## **AQA A Level Biology**

### **Why study Biology?**

With a Biology A-level, you can normally study further sciences at university such as Forensic Biology, Biology, Human Biology, Physiotherapy, Animal Biology, Ecology, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Botany, Zoology, Parasitology, Aquatic Bioscience, Genetics, Virology. The list of career opportunities is varied, including teaching and research, biological science and technology, medical and health services, genetic counselling, health education, biochemistry, environmental health, pharmaceutical/medical product sales and marine biology.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

Grade 7-7 in Combined Science.

Grade 7 in Biology (Separate Science).

We would strongly advise that you do not take Biology as your only Science. Students are more like to succeed on this course when it is taken with at least one of Physics, Chemistry or Maths.

### **What will I study?**

Learners will study a variety of topics including:

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Cells and biological molecules
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolutions and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

### **You will enjoy this course if...**

You have an interest in how the body and plants work. Have good practical skills.

Have good analytical, research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills.

### **How will my work be assessed?**

The qualification is linear. Students will sit their exams at the end of their A level course.

Paper 1: Topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills. Examination paper: A mixture of short and long answer questions and extended response questions. Total marks – 91. Duration: 2 hours. 35% of the total A level marks.

Paper 2: Topics 5 – 8, including relevant practical skills. Examination paper: A mixture of long and short answer questions and some comprehension questions. Total marks – 91. Duration - 2 hours. 35% of the total A level marks.

Paper 3: Topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills. Examination paper: Structured questions including practical techniques; critical analysis of given experimental data; one essay from a choice of two titles. Total marks-78 Duration -2 hours. 30% of the total A level marks.