



THE
WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Biology is an important science today as the biotechnology revolution is opening a whole new world of discovery and opportunity for young scientists. It is also relevant to many social science subjects such as Geography and Sociology. Students taking a science course should seriously consider Biology as one of their options. Biology offers valuable training in investigative, analytical and critical skills, as well as other skills such as communication, working, teamwork, problem solving, mathematical; learning and performance skills, which are essential in a very wide range of professions.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

An interest in, and a desire to study, Biology is essential. Students who are willing to spend time studying on their own will do very well and will enjoy the course. We aim to instil a deep interest in the subject, which can be maintained in courses of further education and beyond.

GCSE or equivalent

IELTS 5.5 or equivalent

EXAM BOARD

OCR

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
<p>MODULE 1 – Development of practical skills in biology</p> <p>MODULE 2 – Foundations in biology</p> <p>MODULE 3 – Exchange and transport</p>	<p>MODULE 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy</p> <p>MODULE 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems</p>

MODULE 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease	
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ASSESSMENT

Formal internal assessments take place regularly about once every half term and homework is set on a regular basis.

Grades are determined by final examinations, which take place in May/June at the end of the 2-year course.

Practical work is assessed within the school for the practical endorsement, which is a pass or fail.

An end of year exam must be passed for entry to year 2 and a mock exam must be passed for entry into the public exams.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Biological Processes (01)	100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper	37% of A level
Biological Diversity (02)	100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper	37% of A level
Unified Biology (03)	70 marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper	26% of A level
Practical Endorsement in Biology (04)	(non-exam assessment)	Reported separately

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
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OCR AS/A level biology A Student Book 1 and ActiveBook	9781447990796	Sue Hocking, Frank Sochacki, Mark Winterbottom
OCR AS/A level biology A Student Book 2 and ActiveBook	9781447990802	Sue Hocking, Frank Sochacki, Mark Winterbottom
A-Level Biology for OCR A Year 1 & AS Student Book with Online Edition (CGP A-Level Biology)	9781782943204	CGP Books
A-Level Biology for OCR A Year 2 Student Book with Online Edition (CGP A-Level Biology)	9781782943259	CGP Books

Summaries of each unit, your notes and past examination papers will be your major source of revision. There are revision guides for both AS and A2. Kerboodle is a useful online resource. Revision guides and workbooks will be offered by your teacher at a discounted price.

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Biology opens a large range of career options as, together with other sciences, it is important for technology, research, conservation, resource management, social work and the medical profession, as well as many other occupations.

Previous students have studied:

Biological Sciences – Queen Mary University

Biomedical Sciences – Newcastle university

King's College London – Food and Nutrition

Bradford University – Physiotherapy

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

Chemistry, Psychology, Maths, Physics.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Sue Chubb

