

A group of students are sitting on the grass in a field, engaged in a practical activity. Some are looking at a laptop, while others are talking or looking at something in their hands. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements: Grade 6,6 in Combined Science GCSE or if you have studied the Sciences separately, Grade 6 in at least two, including Biology. Plus a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

Exam board: AQA

Full Subject Specification: [AS and A-level Biology Specification Specifications for first teaching in 2015 \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/AS-and-A-level/Biology-Specification-2015)

Why study Biology:

Biology A level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is?

Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

At Stratford Upon Avon School, A level Biology is taught by a very experienced and passionate team with a wide range of biology backgrounds from Ecology to Molecular Biology which allows us to use our expertise to inspire our students.

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject.

Throughout the course you will carry out investigative activities including:

using microscopes to see cell division, dissection of animal and plant systems, aseptic technique to study microbial growth, investigating activity within cells, investigating animal behaviours and investigating distributions of species in the environment.

These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

Subject Specification Outline:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Progress Assessment:

Regular homework tasks of past exam questions.

In class diagnoses at the end of each topic.

Required practical activities (12 across the two years).

Ongoing ½ termly progress test assessments.

Final Exam Format:

Paper 1 – Topics 1-4, 2hrs.

Paper 2 – Topics 5-8, 2 hrs.

Paper 3 – Topics 1-8, 2hrs.

Self Study Requirements:

An hour of self study for every hour of taught lesson.

Self study will include consolidating lesson notes, questions from the textbook, past paper questions and online research.

Progression Pathways:

As well as being a qualification which is well respected by employers, according to [bestcourse4me.com](https://www.bestcourse4me.com), the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A level in Biology are:

- Biology
- Psychology
- Sport and exercise science
- Medicine
- Anatomy
- Physiology and Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Toxicology and Pharmacy
- Chemistry.

Studying Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist.