

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Map - Biology

By studying A-level biology you will gain an understanding of the processes fundamentally important to life, such as respiration and photosynthesis, but also you will develop a wider appreciation of how living organisms interact with each other and the non-living environment. From studying biological molecules and cells at the start of Year 12, the course widens out into a consideration of physiology, ecology and genetics. This is followed in Year 13 with deeper study of biochemistry, response and homeostasis, energy transfers and further topics on genetics.

An A-level in biology will develop your practical and investigative skills, as well as your ability to describe and communicate scientific ideas. Also integrated into the course is the teaching of maths skills and data analysis, so that by the end of the course you will have a suite of transferable skills that will support your progression to a wide range of further study and employment opportunities. Students from WSF have not only progressed to degree courses in the biomedical sciences, but also law and even English.

		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
Year 12	Topic/themes/ skills covered	1 Biological molecules 2 Cells	1 Biological molecules 2 Cells	3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment 4 Genetic information, variation, and relationships between organisms	3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment 4 Genetic information, variation, and relationships between organisms	Finish AS topics 3 and 4 then revision and AS exams if applicable	Start A2 topics: 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
	Assessment	Topic tests at the end of each topic within a unit.	Topic tests Monitoring assessment 1 Required practicals (RP) 1, 2, 3, 4	Topic tests Monitoring assessment 2 RP 5	Topic tests RP 6	Mock exam for those sitting AS AS examinations: 2 papers, each 1hr 30 in duration	Topic tests Monitoring assessment 3 RP 10
		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
Year 13	Topic/themes/ skills covered	6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments	5 Energy transfers in and between organisms 7 Genetics, populations,	5 Energy transfers in and between organisms 7 Genetics, populations,	7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems 8 The control of	Revision and A2 exams	

		5 Energy transfers in and between organisms Required practicals (RP 7, 8, 11)	evolution and ecosystems RP 9	evolution and ecosystems 8 The control of gene expression	gene expression RP 12		
	Assessment	Topic tests at the end of each topic within a unit.	Topic tests Monitoring assessment 1	Topic tests Monitoring assessment 2	Topic tests	A2 examinations: 3 papers, each 2hrs in duration	