



**1. Examination  
board and course  
title:  
A-level Biology  
AQA**

**GDA**



## 2. Course overview

Studying A-level biology at George Dixon Academy will enable you to develop:

- an enthusiasm for biology and an understanding of how organisms work and interact with the environment around them
- practical skills alongside an understanding of biological concepts and principles
- an appropriate and relevant foundation of knowledge that can be used as a stepping stone to the future study of biology in higher education and skills that lay the groundwork for careers in science or the healthcare field

The subject content consists of the following units:

- Unit 1: Biological molecules
- Unit 2: Cells
- Unit 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Unit 4: Genetic information, variation & relationships between organisms
- Unit 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Unit 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal & external environments
- Unit 7: Genetics, populations, evolution & ecosystems

Year 12 biology students will study:

- Units 1 - 4

Year 13 biology students will study:

- Units 5 - 8

### 3. Assessment outline

A-level biology is a stand-alone (2 year) course and consists of 3 examinations and a portfolio of practical work. The practical work will contribute to a certificate of competency.

#### Paper 1:

- units 1 - 4 & practical skills
- written exam: 2 hours
- 91 marks (35% of A-level)
  - 76 marks of a mixture of short and long answer questions
  - 15 marks of extended response questions

#### Paper 2:

- unit 5 - 8 & practical skills
- written exam: 2 hours
- 91 marks (35% of A-level)
  - 76 marks of a mixture of short & long answer questions
  - 15 marks of comprehension questions

#### Paper 3:

- unit 1 - 8 & practical skills
- written exam: 2 hours
- 78 marks (30% of A-level)
  - 38 marks of structured questions, including practical techniques
  - 15 marks of critical analysis of given experimental data
  - 25 marks consisting of one synoptic essay from a choice of two titles

## 4. Entry requirements

Students must have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE biology or a grade 6 in both core and additional science.

## 5. Career pathways.

### Education progression

A level-biology, especially in combination with two other sciences (such as mathematics, chemistry and physics) can support applications for a wide variety of science degrees. It is a desired subject for students wishing to study medical sciences such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, nursing and optometry. Biology can be studied at university as a pure subject or as a joint honours degree in combination with just about everything from business and management to sports science.

### Career progression

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as:

- medicine
- dentistry
- veterinary science
- physiotherapy
- pharmacy
- optometry
- nursing
- zoology
- marine biology
- forensic science