Biology
A Level

AWARDING BODY
OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE
Biology A H420

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
- 5 GCSE’s/Level 2s A*-C including GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics Grades at Grades 9-4
- Grade 5 (or above) in GCSE English GCSE and Grade 5(or above) in GCSE Mathematics
- At least one grade 6 in Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics

ABOUT THIS COURSE
This course aims to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of biological concepts. These range from the roles of molecules in cells, through the detailed structure of cells to the processes of evolution and the study of biodiversity. The relevance of Biology to everyday life is emphasized throughout the course, e.g. studying genetic modification and screening, and therefore also provides a useful educational function for students not intending to study a Biology related subject at university, as well as those who do.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
In Year 12, students complete the stand-alone OCR AS Biology A. This has four modules:
Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology
Module 2 – Foundations in biology
Module 3 – Exchange and transport
Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

In Years 12 & 13, students will complete OCR A Level Biology A, covering these additional modules:
Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

HOW WILL I LEARN?
The advanced level course offers a variety of learning styles to suit all pupils.
There is plenty of opportunity for practical work, web based research and individual support as well as class catered learning.
The course starts in Year 12 with the Biology Field Trip which gives students an opportunity to undertake an Ecology investigation in a natural habitat. Throughout the course, students take part in a variety of experiments, and investigations which are assessed through the Practical Skills Endorsement.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?
There are many occupations where an interest in Biology is either useful or essential. The most obvious example is in the field of medicine where the National Health Service employs immunologists, geneticists, physiologists, radiographers, nurses, microbiologists and biochemists. Opportunities for biologists also exist in the private sector, particularly in the new biotechnology companies. These include many involved in the ‘science of the next century’, genetic engineering, psychology, biochemistry, pharmacy, veterinary science, teaching, forensics, nursing, radiography, sport science. Finally biologists have also been found to be very good managers and administrators since they are used to handling a large number of variables at once!

WHO TO TALK TO?
Ms D Allen at enquiry@bordgrng.bham.sch.uk
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