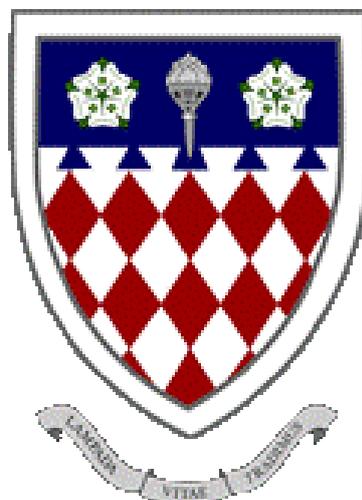


Spalding High School
Sixth Form

A Level Biology



Why Choose A Level Biology?

A Level Biology delves into the world of how organisms interact and the intricacies of the molecules and substances that form us. Biology is one the most popular courses to take at A level in the UK because it is well-respected and relates to our everyday concerns about our health and the environment.

Biology is never far from the headlines: *'cardiovascular disease causes more than 1 in 3 deaths in the UK, cystic fibrosis research gathers pace, extensively drug resistant TB on the increase, will Southern Spain become a desert if global warming changes Mediterranean ecosystems?'*

During the course, students develop their problem solving skills and practical abilities. It is a very rewarding and challenging qualification that provides a useful background to a wide variety of further and higher education courses. Not everyone who takes A Level Biology continues their studies in a biologically related field—but many do!

What career paths might I follow with A Level Biology?

Previous students have gone on to study: medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, radiography, nursing, forensic science, archaeology, marine biology, ecology, sports science, physiotherapy, biochemistry and endless other biologically related degree courses.

A Level Biology is clearly a great choice of subject for students who want a career in the health and clinical professions but it also develops skills which are useful in a wide range of industries and professions from accountancy to journalism, law and even teaching!

What is the content of the course and how is it assessed?

The specification followed in the exciting Edexcel Salters-Nuffield Biology A Level. The course uses storylines and real-life contexts to introduce biological principles. There are eight topics:

- Lifestyle, health and risk - the circulatory system, lifestyle choices and health
- Genes and health - a storyline of cystic fibrosis to look at many key biological principles
- Voice of the genome - the development of multicellular organisms from single cells
- Biodiversity and natural resources
- On the wild side - photosynthesis and climate change
- Infection, immunity and forensics
- Run for your life - physiological adaptations to exercise
- Grey matter - the nervous system

Assessment is linear, students sit three examinations (two hours each) at the end of the course. Overall 10% of the marks across the three papers will be awarded for the demonstration of mathematical skills. The assessment of practical skills is a compulsory requirement of the course and students complete eighteen core practicals which are embedded into the topics allowing students to develop and demonstrate their practical skills. A practical endorsement is awarded if the write ups of these are completed successfully.

What do our students say about A Level Biology?

'I am really enjoying the subject. I know this course will help me in my next step. I am really grateful to be taught by passionate teachers and that love their subject.'

'It's a really inclusive and welcoming atmosphere.'

'We are supported by all the committed teachers in a fully immersive and dynamic environment.'

Specification

Exam Board - Edexcel (Salters-Nuffield)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/biology-a-2015.html>

Entry requirements

Grade 6,7 in Combined Science and Grade 5 in Mathematics

OR

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Biology and Grade 5 in Mathematics

For further details please contact

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