BIOLOGY A LEVEL

The specification that we follow at Groby Community College is OCR. The AS award is taught in year 12 and students wishing to continue the subject complete A2 in year 13. The scheme of assessment detailed below has a linear structure (examined in June only) and is for first teaching in 2015.

What are the aims of this course?

AS and A2 level biology should encourage students to:
Develop essential knowledge and understanding of concepts in biology, and the skills needed to use these in new and changing situations
Develop an understanding of scientific methods
Be aware of advances in technology, including information technology. relevant to biology
Recognise the value and responsible use of biology in society
Sustain and develop their enjoyment of, and interest in, biology.

What sort of things will I be learning about?

The following table includes a summary of subject content for the AS and A2 modules. This is an accredited specification, but still in preparation at the exam board level.

Level	Module title	Subject Content
AS/A2	Module 1— Development of practical skills in Biology	Skills of planning, implementing and evaluation. This covers the practical skills that students develop throughout the course. Assessed via written examinations, this module underpins the entire specification.
AS/A2	Module 2— Foundations in Biology	Covers concepts required throughout the remaining modules. Includes Cell Structure, Biological molecules, nucleotides and nucleic acids, Enzymes, Biological membranes, Cell diversity and cellular organisation.
AS/A2	Module 3—Exchange and Transport	Exchange surfaces, Transport in animals, Transport in plants.
AS/A2	Module 4— Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease	Includes: Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system. Biodiversity, classification and evolution.
A2	Module 5— Communication, Homeostasis and Energy.	Homeostasis, neuronal and hormonal communication, plant and animal responses. Photosynthesis, Respiration, Excretion.
A2	Module 6—Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems.	Cellular control and inheritance, manipulating genomes, biotechnology, cloning and populations.

A Level BIOLOGY Continued..

In addition A level biology should encourage students to:

Show knowledge and understanding of the facts, principles and concepts from different areas of biology and to make and use connections between them.
The first four units constitute the stand-alone AS qualification, modules 1-6 combined with the Practical Endorsement constitute the full A-Level.

The following tables are designed to show how the course is assessed:

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Award

Assessment Type	Title	Duration	Percentage of total AS mark
Written Exam Paper	Paper 1—Breadth in Biology	1 h 30	50
Written Exam Paper	Paper 2—Depth in Biology	1h 30	50

Advanced (A2) Award

Assessment Type	Title	Duration	Percentage of total A2 mark
Written Exam Paper	Paper 1 - Biological Processes	2h 15 minutes	37
Written Exam Paper	Paper 2—Biological Diversity	2h 15 minutes	37
Written Exam Paper	Paper 3—Unified Biology	1h 30 minutes	26
Teacher Assessed	Practical Endorsement for Biology	Non-Exam	Pass/Fail. Reported separately

The biology course covers a wide range of material and is good preparation for anybody wishing to study Biology, or related subjects to a higher level. The course has many links with Applied Science, Chemistry, PE and Psychology.

The Biology team at Groby Community College are a dynamic and enthusiastic team. We are a very supportive bunch and always on offer to give you a helping hand. Weekly 'Biology Surgery' sessions take place to support students requiring additional help. Students can bring homework or class work to these sessions and Biology teachers will be on hand to help.

Biology is not an easy subject and to be successful you will have to work hard. We hope you find the course enjoyable and rewarding.

For more information about this subject, please contact
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