

AS/A LEVEL BIOLOGY

What does the course involve?

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either.

The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the 3000 million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned down. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology. All vital areas for mankind!

What course units will I take?

In the first year you'll study three main topics: 'Biology and disease', 'The variety of living organisms', plus a practical assignment which is designed to sharpen your investigative skills.

Year two helps to build on that firm foundation and has a similar format, the academic topics being: 'Populations and environment' during which the group will spend some time at a field centre doing their practical investigations. The other topic is 'Control in cells and organisms'

Assessments take the form of two external examinations each year and one internal practical investigation.

What qualifications do I need?

To cope with the level of understanding needed you should have at least a C grade at GCSE Science. You will need to have good communication, analytical and comprehension skills. Confidence in working within a practical based environment will be an advantage.

Will I take part in any study visits/field work?

Within the course of study on environmental topics, to enhance the learning of students, a period of external investigations will be arranged.

What can I do after the course?

Biology is one of the most popular A level subjects in the country. Many continue to study the subject at degree level. Others go on to degrees in law, computing, accounting medicine, nursing teaching, and sports related courses.. So whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find biology a very rewarding and challenging course, which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.