

# A Level Biology

Course Title: Biology	LARS/QAN Code: 60142601
Level: Three	Awarding Organisation: OCR
Delivery: Classroom based	Start Date: September
Location: Headlands School	Url: <u>http://www.headlandsschool.co.uk/</u>
Cost: Covered by EFA funding	Duration: 2 years
Full-time or Part-time: Full-time	Attendance: Daytime

#### Who is the course for?

If you are curious or interested in understanding more about how life works on this planet, this is the course for you. Those who are interested in how our bodies work, from a subcellular level up to how species actually come to be will excel at this course.

Those who go on and study or research cures for diseases, or work with anatomy of humans or animals will first study an A-level in Biology.

The skills gained in a Biology A-level don't have to go on to necessarily work in the scientific field. Many successful people who complete A-level Biology, do not go on to work in science but have gained incredibly valuable skills which can be transitioned into many lines of work:

- An understanding of the wider world/cultures beyond our own
- Self-discipline in hard work
- Problem solving
- Timekeeping

So if you enjoy the biology aspects of science, want to know more (even if you don't necessarily want to work as a biologist), then Biology A-level is right for you.

#### Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for A Level programme, including a minimum of a grade 6 in Combined Science or a 5 in Biology. A confidence in Maths (Grade 5 or above) is desirable.

## What you'll learn:

Biology is an ever changing field of science that continues to evoke a sense of wonder in all that appreciate it. The subject is varied and detailed and goes someway to explaining how life functions on the planet. We hope that you will be as excited as we are about the subject and choose to study here with us at Headlands.

#### A-Level year one outline:

In Year 1, the specification continues to build upon the content learned throughout GCSE and aims to expand the understanding of students into 'real -world' Biology.

You will study 4 different topics:

- Biological Molecules
- Cells
- Organisms and their exchange with the environment
- Genetics, variation and relationships between organisms.

# <u>A-Level year 2 outline</u>

The Year 2 course follows up the principles studied in Year 1 and continues to contextualise the use of Biology 'in the real world':

- Energy Transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression.

Lessons are taught from both a theory and practical basis. Throughout the two years there are a series of required practical's that secure a practical endorsement from the exam board.

There will also be opportunities to attend visits that aim to further understanding and excitement for the subject, as well as the implementation of Ecological techniques on a Biology Field Trip.

## How you'll learn:

A mixture of teaching styles will be used to deliver high level thinking that spans the 2-year course. These will include: lecture style, interactive lessons, seminar led sessions and practical activities.

## How you'll be assessed:

**Paper 1** - any content from section 1,2,3 & 5. Multiple choice and short answer questions. Worth 100 marks

**Paper 2** - any content from sections 1,2,4,& 6. Multiple choice and short answer questions. Worth 100 marks

**Paper 3**- a synoptic paper assessing knowledge from the entire specification and relevant practical skills, short and extended questions.

There is no practical exam. Practical skills will be assessed across the entire length of the course, recorded in a project style book and reported separately as a PASS or FAIL.

# Where next:

Degree level qualifications in Animal Science, Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Medicine, Marine Biology, Molecular Biosciences, Sport Science, Pharmacology and Veterinary Science are some of the popular choices after studying A-level Biology.

Opportunities in the NHS, Teaching, Genetics, Nursing, Catering, Land Management, Animal Husbandry, Sports Nutrition and Physiotherapy to name but a few.