

YOUR JOURNEY

TO BECOMING EXAM READY



WELCOME TO EDUQAS GCE BIOLOGY



Biology is the study of life. It will enable you to develop a vast array of skills and acquire knowledge about the natural world and all the living things within it. Gaining an A-level in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options.

You will cover a wide range of topics in A level Biology. The qualification is made up of three themed components which are examined at the end of the second year of study. Before we look at the three themed components there is a body of biological knowledge which is essential for understanding many other biological concepts you may come across and could be assessed in any of the three components. It is called 'Core concepts'

PLANNING AHEAD...

Core concepts

You will cover a variety of topics here which will help give you the foundation you need to understand the more complex topics in the other components.

- Biological molecules
- Cell structure and function
- Transport into and out of the cell
- Enzymes
- Nucleic acids
- Cell division

Component 1: Energy for Life

This component covers some tricky topics - the biochemistry of ATP production, respiration and photosynthesis. However, there is also some fieldwork and some practical work to look forward to. The topics in this component are;

- ATP
- Photosynthesis
- Microbiology
- Population size and
- Human impact on the environment

Component 2: Continuity of life

This component covers some interesting topics - reproduction in animals and plants and how knowledge about DNA and gene technology is making some huge advances possible.

- Biodiversity and classification
- Cell division
- Sexual reproduction in humans
- Sexual reproduction in plants
- Inheritance
- Variation and evolution
- Application of reproduction and genetics

Component 3: Requirements for Life

This component looks at lots of the human body systems. It also contains a choice of one option from three. The topics in this component are:

- Adaptations to gas exchange
- Adaptations to transport
- Adaptations for nutrition
- Homeostasis and the kidney
- The nervous system
- Choice of one option from three:
- Immunology and disease
- Human Musculoskeletal anatomy
- Neurobiology and behaviour

GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

TOP TIPS

Make sure you learn your work for each component as you go along, this will make it much easier to revise for the exams at the end of the course.

There is a list of all the skills you need at the back of the specification. Make sure you are aware of these before you sit the examinations.

Read the exam papers carefully highlighting key words as you go through. Identify the command words and number of marks available for each question, to know how much detail to give.

Be aware that although the components are themed there will be a few marks in each component which are synoptic. This means that they will assess Core concepts or ideas from the other two components.

Your practical skills will be assessed by your teacher throughout the A level course. You will be expected to keep a record of your practical work. At the end of the course your teacher will decide whether you have reached the required standard for the practical endorsement to be awarded.

WELLBEING GUIDANCE

Take baby steps.

Remember this is a journey and you will pick skills and knowledge up along the way.

Take regular breaks from studying.

Exercise, meet friends, spend time with family.

Look after yourself.

Make sure you are getting a balanced diet and get enough sleep.

Try to stay positive.

Even if you don't feel like it, a positive attitude will help you.

Remember that everyone's different.

Try not to compare yourself to others.

HOW ARE YOU ASSESSED?

The qualification is split into three components, which are all marked by WJEC.

Component 1 - Assessed by exam - $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the total marks

Component 2 - Assessed by exam - $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the total marks

Component 3 - Assessed by exam - $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the total marks

