Biology

Overview

The aims of these specifications are to encourage candidates to:

- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in biology;
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society;
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of How Science Works;
- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other.

A level Course Content:

Module 1 - Practical skills development
Module 2 - Cells, chemicals for life, transport and gas exchange
Module 3 - Cell division, development and disease control
Module 4 - Biodiversity, evolution and disease
Module 5 - Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Exam Board

OCR

Specification
A level: H420

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171736-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-biology-a-h420.pdf

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

The A level specification has been written to provide progression from GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science, or from GCSE Biology; achievement at a minimum grade 6 on the Higher Tier paper in these qualifications should be seen as the normal requisite for entry to A level Biology, along with a minimum Grade 6 in Maths at GCSE. If a student is not studying A level Maths, they will be invited to study AS Core Maths as a 4th subject alongside their Biology course, this has been shown to support improved outcomes for students.

Assessment

A Level – two year course	
10% of exam marks assess mathematical skills	
Paper 1: Biological Processes multiple choice, structured and extended response questions (100 marks)	2hr 15m 37% of A level
Paper 2: Biological Diversity multiple choice, structured and extended response questions (100 marks)	2hr 15m 37% of A level
Paper 3: Unified Biology structured and extended response questions (70 marks)	1hr 30m 26% of A level
Non-Exam assessment of practical skills reported separately	Pass / Fail

Progression and Career Opportunities

Biology gives access to many careers, often via university degree. The list of potential careers is large and includes medicine, physiology, speech therapy, veterinary science, marine biology, ecology, conservation and teaching.