



Rewarding Learning

GCSE Biology

STUDENT
GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This CCEA course in GCSE Biology provides a broad, coherent and practical course that develops confidence in and a positive view of science. It encourages you to appreciate the value of biology in your lives and in the wider world around you.

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

This specification aims to encourage you to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of biology;
- develop your understanding of the effects of biology on society;
- develop an understanding of the importance of scale in biology;
- develop and apply your knowledge and understanding of the nature of science and of the scientific process;
- develop your understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations;
- develop your awareness of risk and the ability to assess potential risk in the context of potential benefits; and
- develop and apply your observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills and understanding in laboratory, field and other learning environments.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

It provides a thorough preparation for the study of biology and related courses at GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level. It also allows you to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in vocational training and employment. It gives you the opportunity to develop the ability to apply skills to real-life contexts.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?*

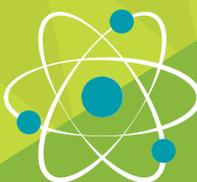
UNIT ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT	AVAILABILITY
Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity	External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations. Foundation Tier: 1 hour 15 mins Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 mins	Summer from 2018
Unit 2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health	Externally written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations. Foundation Tier: 1 hour 30 mins Higher Tier: 1 hour 30 mins	Summer from 2019
Unit 3: Practical skills	Booklet A Students carry out two externally marked pre-release practicals in the final year of study. 2 hours for Foundation and Higher Tier Booklet B External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context. There are two tiers of entry Foundation Tier: 1 hour Higher Tier: 1 hour	Between 1 January and 1 May each year (beginning in 2019) Every Summer (beginning in 2019)

*The information in this table is still subject to regulatory approval.



Unit 1
Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity

35%



Unit 2
Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health

40%



Unit 3
Practical Skills

25%

WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for students to contribute to the aim and objectives of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4, and to continue to develop the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The extent of the development of these skills and capabilities depend on the teaching and learning methodology used.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN BIOLOGY?

It provides a thorough preparation for the study of biology and related courses at GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level. It also allows you to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in vocational training and employment.

Studying biology can lead on to a variety of careers including medicine, dentistry, agriculture, ecology, sport and fitness along with a host of other job opportunities.

