

REIGATE COLLEGE

**Salters-Nuffield
Biology AS and A2**

EdExcel Syllabuses 8048, 9048

GCSE Biology

AQA Syllabus 4411



Biology students on a field trip to Exmoor

Salters-Nuffield Biology AS and A2 Edexcel Syllabuses 8048, 9048

Biology is a tremendously varied and enjoyable subject. It requires a commitment to hard work and perseverance, but enables you to develop valuable and interesting knowledge and skills.

It is the science of the next century. Biologists aim to develop strategies for tomorrow's world, enabling people to live long, healthy lives with minimum impact on the world of future generations.

The Biology department is well equipped, and offers a variety of teaching methods and a range of support materials for students, including CD-ROM and on-line tutorials. The A2 course includes a residential field course.

You will have opportunities to develop research and IT skills. There is no compulsory dissection.

Worksheets and study guides include questions on recent articles, past examination questions, diagrams to annotate and so on. These ensure a high standard of notes to use for future revision.

Course Content

Year 1 - AS		
1. Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health	Examination, 1 hour 15 mins	30% of AS mark, 15% of A2 mark
2. Development, Plants and Environment	Examination, 1 hour 30 mins	40% of AS mark, 20% of A2 mark
3. Report and Practical Review	Coursework marked by EdExcel	30% of AS mark, 15% of A2 mark
Year 2 - A2		
4. Environment and Survival	Examination, 1 hour 15 mins	15% of A2 mark
5. Energy Exercise and Coordination	Examination, 1 hour, plus coursework investigation	20% of A2 mark
6. Synoptic paper: linking the other units and testing a piece of scientific writing studied during the course	2 hours	15% of A2 mark

Subject combinations

Biology combines well with other sciences such as Chemistry and Physics. The following also have close links: Physical Education, Geography, Psychology, Mathematics, Health and Social Care. However many students study Biology alongside completely unrelated subjects.

Entry Requirements

Examination qualifications: In order to take Biology you should already have Higher Tier GCSEs in **either** Double Science at Grade CC and Mathematics at Grade B, **or** Double Science at Grade BB and Mathematics at Grade C.

Skills and interests: you should enjoy and be good at problem solving and working with numbers. Planning your own learning, written and spoken communication, and working with others are also quite important.

What does this course lead to?

Biologists work in a huge variety of jobs: in universities, hospitals and industrial laboratories, in agriculture and animal care, conservation and environmental monitoring. They also use their knowledge and skills in teaching and business.

Some of these careers can be entered straight from College, perhaps with additional specialist training through NVQs. For other careers you will need a university degree. Both Biology and Human Biology qualify students to apply to take Biology at university.

More information available on the internet:

Salters-Nuffield Biology website:

<http://www.advancedbiology.org/course/>

Student information leaflet (colour, 44 KB):

<http://www.advancedbiology.org/data/files/snabstdsinfo-9594.pdf>

Student information leaflet (black and white, 40 KB):

<http://www.advancedbiology.org/data/files/snabstdsinfobw-9595.pdf>

Tour of on-line resources:

<http://www.snabonline.com/freetrialregister/default.aspx>

Information from EdExcel:

AS: <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gce/biology/as/8048/>

A2: <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gce/biology/adv/9048/>

GCSE Biology AQA Syllabus 4411

Science stimulates curiosity about the world and satisfies it with knowledge gained through the scientific methods of experiment and modelling.

A science qualification at GCSE is essential for a variety of further and higher education courses, including teaching or nursing. It is also useful for dental technicians and other caring and medical professions, and will help to qualify you to study sciences at A Level.

Course Content and Assessment

GCSE Biology is a one-year course. It includes the study of:

- living things in their environment
- health and fitness
- inheritance and evolution
- human reproduction and development

It is assessed by:

written papers (multiple choice and short answers)
Practical Skills Assessments (internally assessed)

Subject Combinations

Subjects which combine well with GCSE Biology include Physical Education and Health and Social Care.

Entry Requirements

In order to study GCSE Biology, you should have already taken GCSE Double Science or single science subjects and achieved at least Grade E.

GCSE Biology requires the following skills: spoken and written communication, problem solving and working with others.