



Cotswold Edge Sixth Form



Subject	BIOLOGY A-LEVEL	Exam board	OCR
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Course outline

Biology is split into six modules: Modules 1 to 6 combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A level taught over two years.

Module 1: Development of practical skills – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module are assessed within written examinations and within the Practical Endorsement.



Module 2: Foundations in biology – covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules. This includes: cell structure; biological molecules; nucleotides and nucleic acids; enzymes; biological membranes; cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation.

Module 3 (Exchange and transport) and **Module 4** (Biodiversity, evolution and disease).

Module 5 (Communication, homeostasis and energy) and **Module 6** (Genetics, evolution and ecosystems)

Course assessment

A Level	
Paper 1	Biological processes
Paper 2	Biological diversity
Paper 3	Unified biology
Non-exam assessment	Practical endorsement for biology*

*The practical endorsement is reported separately from the overall A level grade as a pass or fail. This part of the course assesses if the students can carry out practical investigations independently and with suitable skill.

Course progression

Biology A level can lead onto the following degree courses: medical sciences, veterinary sciences, marine sciences, pharmacology, biochemistry, conservation or environmental sciences, teaching or agriculture.