

AS/A2 Level BIOLOGY (HUMAN BIOLOGY)



Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

This course will suit any students interested in all aspects of the human body, including disease and behaviour. Students can expect to be required to do careful analysis of data.

Subject introduction

This course mainly covers the Biology of humans, although there is some content related to animals and plants. It is suitable for students who are considering a career based on Biology/Human Biology.

Year 1 study outline

Module 1: Molecules, Blood and Gas Exchange

Structure of and functions of blood, the heart, circulatory diseases, cell and membrane structure, the lungs and their functioning.

Module 2: Growth, Development & Disease

Stem cells, DNA, cancer, foetal development, infectious diseases.

Module 3: Practical Skills in Human Biology

Three practical based tasks set by OCR and done under controlled conditions but assessed in College.

Year 2 study outline

Module 4: Energy, Reproduction and Population

Respiration, ATP, muscle contraction, aerobic exercise, the nervous system, reproduction, assisted reproduction, food farming and populations.

Module 5: Genetics, Control & Ageing

Genetic diseases, diabetes, ageing, menopause and HRT, transplants.

Module 6: Extended Investigation in Human Biology

A longer practical task, done in three sections under controlled conditions and then centre assessed.

Methods of study

In addition to theory work, there is a significant amount of practical work.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

Special features

Practical work will include the dissection of hearts and experiments on blood (not human!). Visiting speakers are invited for some of the topics, such as CPR or blood transfusion.

Subject combinations and careers

This is clearly suitable for any career involving the care of people, including medicine, physiotherapy, nursing and sport-related jobs. Human Biology also counts as a Science qualification for a range of jobs and courses.

Many Human Biology-based courses at University also require A/AS Chemistry.

Success stories

Robert Faulks gained grade A in Human Biology and is now studying Artificial Intelligence at the University of Westminster.

Rebecca Palmer gained grade A in Human Biology and is now studying Pharmacy at the University of Cardiff.

Nina Whight gained grade B in Human Biology and is now studying Dietetics at the University of Surrey.

Rebecca Eden gained grade B in Human Biology – she is now training to be a primary school teacher.

Methods of assessment**AS**

Unit 1: Short answer questions in January of Lower Sixth year.

Unit 2: Mix of long and short answer questions along with a pre-release case study taken in May/June of Lower Sixth year.

Unit 3: Three controlled mini practical exams taken during the year and assessed in College.

A2

Unit 4: Short answer questions in January of Upper Sixth year.

Unit 5: Mix of long and short answer questions taken in June of Upper Sixth Year.

Unit 6: Extended practical, done in class and assessed in College.