

## A-Level Biology

**EXAMINATION BOARD (Edexcel) Entry requirement: 6+ in iGCSE Biology**

### **DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

Edexcel IAS and IAL-Level Biology builds on the skills acquired at Edexcel IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, a section on some current applications of biology, and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. Practical skills are assessed throughout the course through a series of core and key suggested practicals. The emphasis throughout is on the understanding of concepts and the application of biological ideas in novel contexts as well as on the acquisition of knowledge.

### **METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

AS

Units 1 and 2 – Exams: January/June, Externally Assessed Written Papers, 1hr 30mins, 80 marks, 40% final IAS grade and 20% final IAL grade each.

Unit 3 – Exam: June, Externally Assessed **Alternative to Practical Written Paper**, 1hr 20mins, 50 marks, 20% final IAS grade and 10% final IAL grade.

A2

Unit 4 – Exam: January/June, Externally Assessed Written Paper, 1hr 45mins, 90 marks, 40% final IA2 grade and 20% final IAL grade.

Unit 5 – Exam: January/June, Externally Assessed Written Paper, 1hr 45mins, 90 marks, 40% final IA2 grade and 20% final IAL grade.

Unit 6 – Exam: June, Externally Assessed **Alternative to Practical Written Paper**, 1hr 20mins, 50 marks, 20% final IA2 grade and 10% final IAL grade.

Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 Written Exam Papers will consist of objective, structured, short answered and practical questions and will also cover *How Science Works*. Units 3 and 6 Alternative to Practical Written Exam Papers will assess students' knowledge and understanding of experimental procedures and techniques covered in practical's.

### **SKILLS TAUGHT**

You will be working more independently and developing your core, analytical, practical and investigative skills as you study the course material and have a greater understanding of how scientific ideas develop.

### **CAREERS OPTIONS**

A sound foundation in Biology at A level will open the first door to a huge range of careers.

Careers using Biology include Medicine Biotechnology, Pharmacy, Environmental Science, Veterinary Science, Catering, Land management, Aquaculture, and Archaeology. Out of Science, the skills and background knowledge you have will help you in careers such as Business and Commerce, Journalism, Publishing, and Social Work.