

Biology- Exam Board: AQA

Subject Overview (coursework/exam split, timings, weightings etc.):

- Written exam 3 papers: 2 hours
- Paper 1 – 91 marks
- Paper 2 – 91 marks
- Paper 3 – 78 marks (260 total)
- No practical mark

Content is in eight modules:

- Unit 1 – Biological molecules
- Unit 2 – Cells
- Unit 3 – Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Unit 4 – Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Unit 5 – Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Unit 6 – Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Unit 7 – Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- Unit 8 – The control of gene expression

Assessments

Paper 1	+	Paper 2	+	Paper 3
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills 		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills 		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 91 marks • 35% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 91 marks • 35% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 78 marks • 30% of A-level
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions • 15 marks: extended response questions 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions • 15 marks: comprehension question 		Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques • 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data • 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

Key Topics for year 12:

Unit 1 – Biological molecules

- Monomers and polymers
- Carbohydrates, lipids and proteins
- Nucleic acids
- ATP
- Water and inorganic ions

Unit 2 – Cells

- Cell structure
- Cell generation
- Cell transport
- Cells and immunity

Unit 3 – Organisms exchange substances with their environment

- Gas exchange
- Digestion
- Mass Transport

Unit 4 – Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

- DNA, genes and chromosomes
- Protein synthesis
- Genetic diversity
- Species and biodiversity

Useful websites:

- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>
- <https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/virtualschooluk?spfreload=10> (Fuse School)
- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>

Useful resources:

- AQA Collins Revision Guide (available to purchase from school)
- CGP textbook AS Biology
- <https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login>
- <https://www.pixl.org.uk/>

Useful revision tips:

- Making use of flash cards
- Completing mind maps helps to identify areas of weakness within a topic
- Complete as many past paper exam questions as possible
- Spend time analysing mark schemes and get familiar with exam technique
- Use of quick quizzes to help to recall key points of information
- Start revision as early as possible as leaving it too late often results in cramming



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