

A LEVEL

BIOLOGY



What is the aim of Biology A Level?

- **knowledge** and **understanding** of biological concepts
- understanding of **scientific method**
- **practical**, **mathematical** and **problem solving** skills
- **interest** and **enthusiasm** for the subject, leading to **further study** and associated **careers**
- understanding of **scientific issues** relating to economy and society.

Why choose biology?

“ Studying biology has given me great purpose - with the oceans rapidly changing due to climate change, what I'm studying is relevant and I want to put my learning into practice to help us understand what is happening to ecosystems.

Dan, 22,
Marine Biology Student

“ Studying science gives you such a broad base of skills. You are developing your communication, team work and ability to think logically and critically as well as subject specific knowledge. Having a broad skill set will undoubtedly make me more attractive to employers when I'm looking for a job after I graduate.

Holly, 22,
Biochemistry Student

“ There is no 'typical day' in my job and that is why I love it! My job is to raise awareness of microbiology's everyday influence on us and how it can enrich our lives. It isn't just about reporting on the research findings of scientists in the laboratory. The work of a microbiologist can be much broader than that.

Vicki 28,
Microbiologist &
Science Communicator

“ My motivation for becoming a researcher is the thrill of the unknown. Scientific research is at the edge of what we currently know and you push that boundary out further. The problems that I am working on have no known solution. I can't use a text book or search the internet for the answer because there is no answer yet. That makes it very exciting.

Owen 26,
Postgraduate Researcher
at the University of Bristol

We follow the **AQA** Biology A-Level course (7402)

The course content is split into **eight** main teaching topics:

1 Biological molecules

2 Cells

3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment

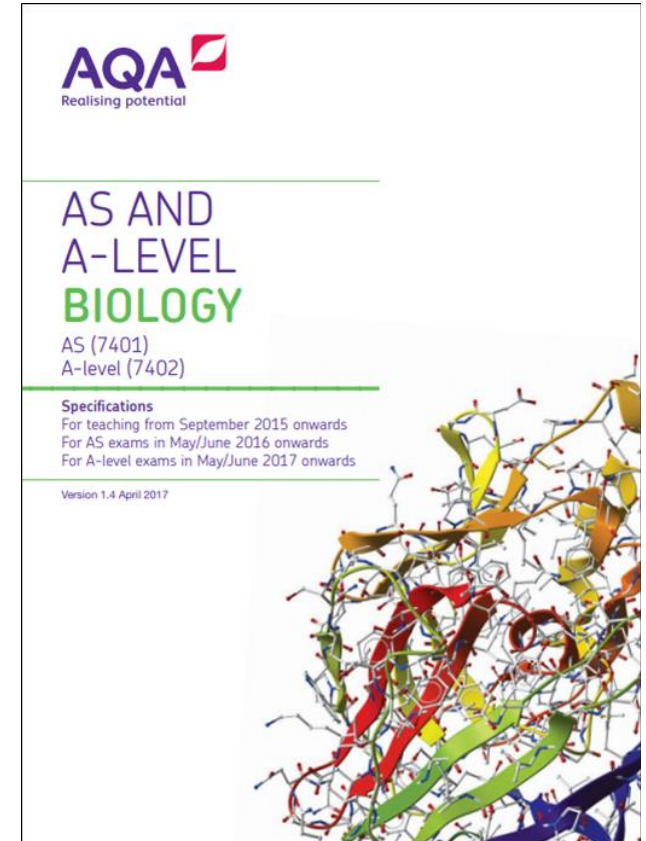
4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

5 Energy transfers in and between organisms

6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

8 The control of gene expression



You can access the complete exam specification and past exam papers on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk

The course will be **fully assessed** by **three** written papers at the end of two years of study...

Final exam	Content assessed	Duration	Weighting	Details
Paper 1 (91 marks)	Topics 1,2,3 and 4 (including relevant practical skills)	2hrs	35%	A mixture of short and long answer questions
Paper 2 (91 marks)	Topics 5,6,7 and 8 (including relevant practical skills)	2hrs	35%	A mixture of short and long answer questions (inc. a 15mark comprehension)
Paper 3 (78 marks)	All topics (including relevant practical skills)	2hrs	30%	SYNOPTIC- Structured questions, including practical techniques and critical analysis of data. 25 mark essay from a choice of two titles

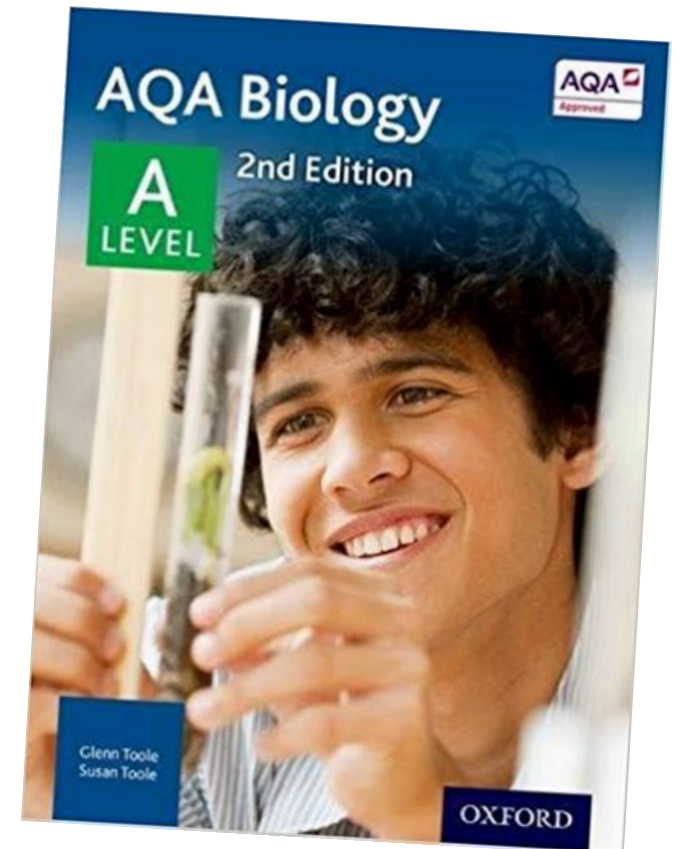
- 9 x 1hour timetabled lessons every fortnight
- split between two specialist teachers



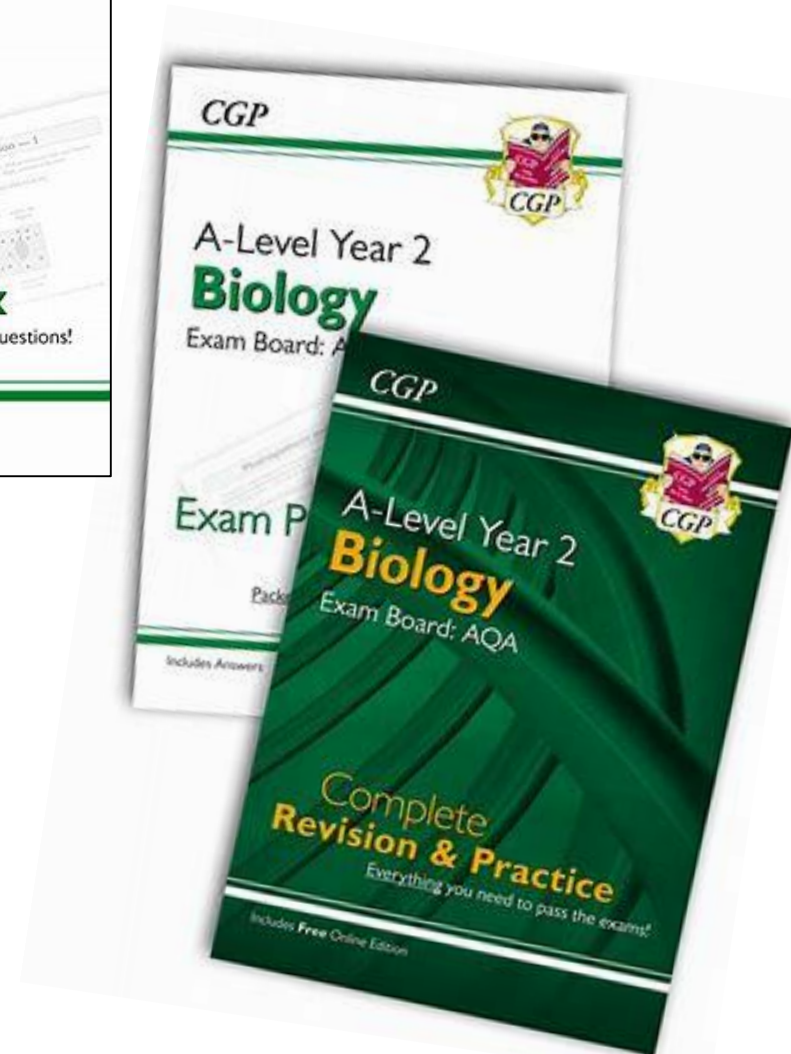
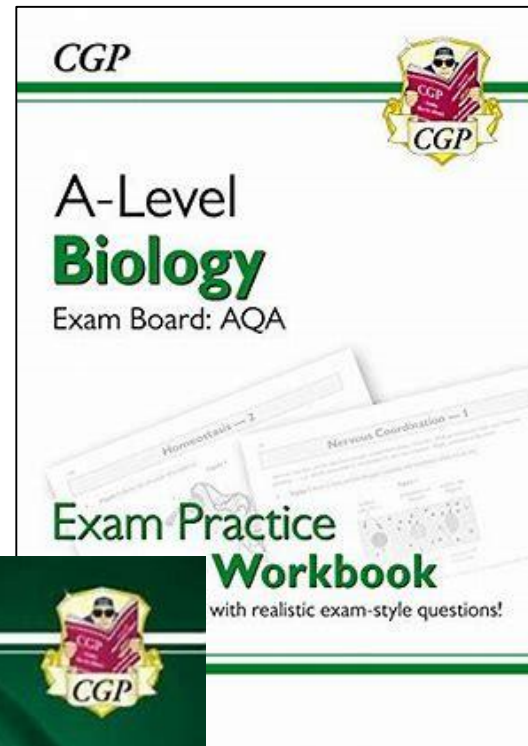
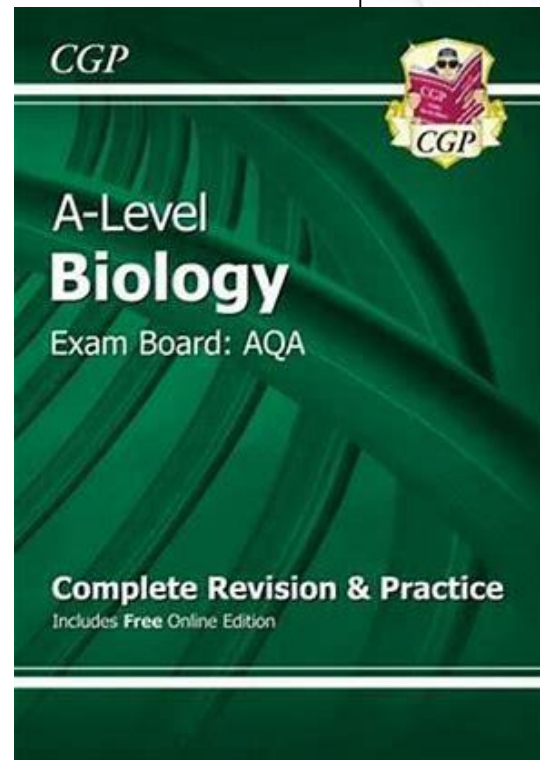
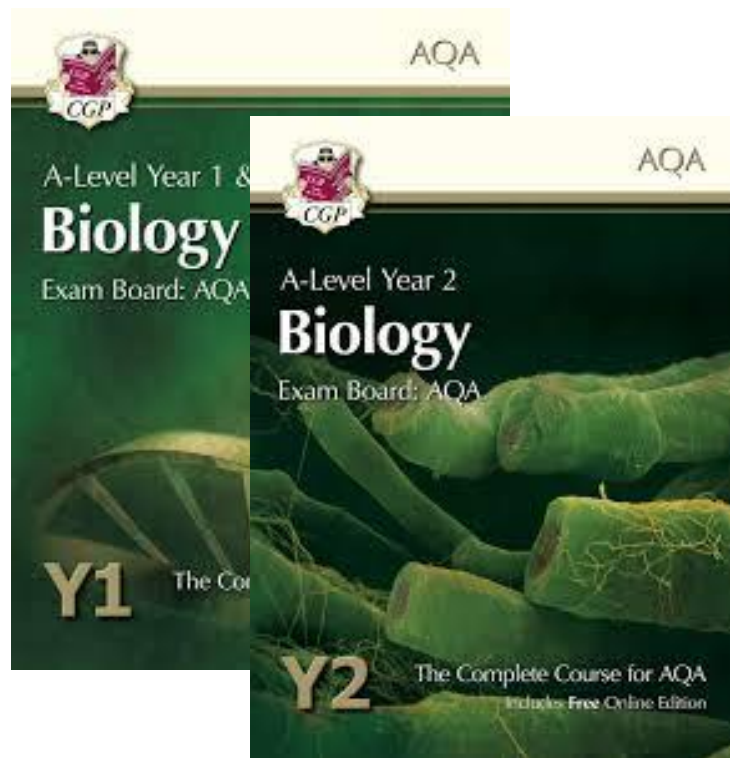
One hour of lesson time
=
One hour working
independently out
of the classroom

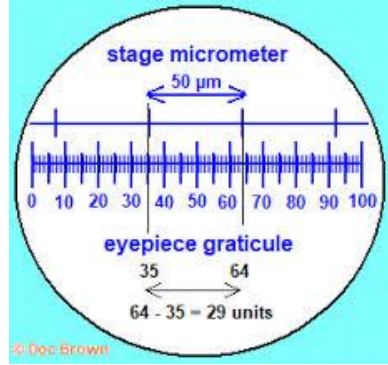
Students are provided with a **digital textbook** on www.kerboodle.com

Use this to add to your class notes, produce summary notes and attempt the practice questions.

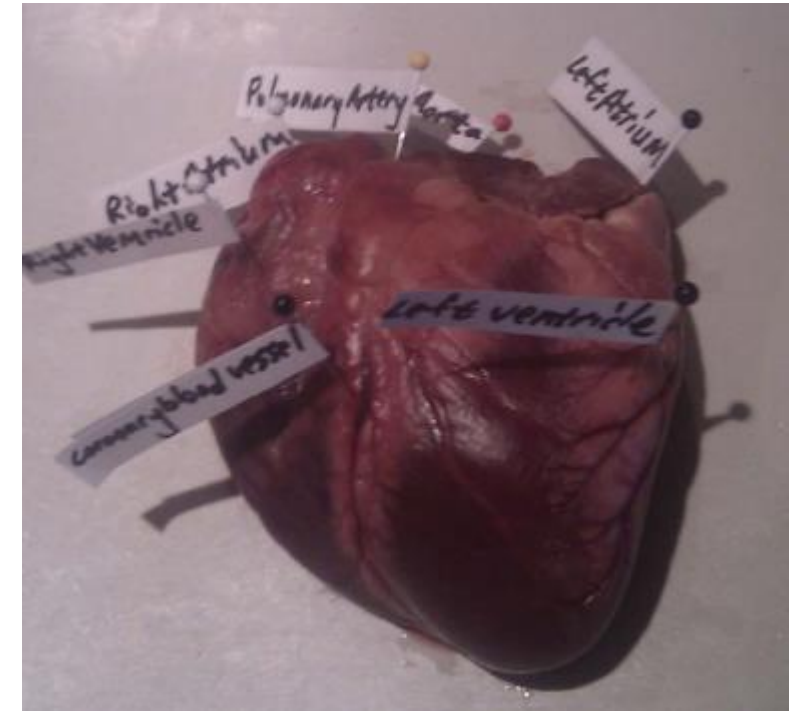
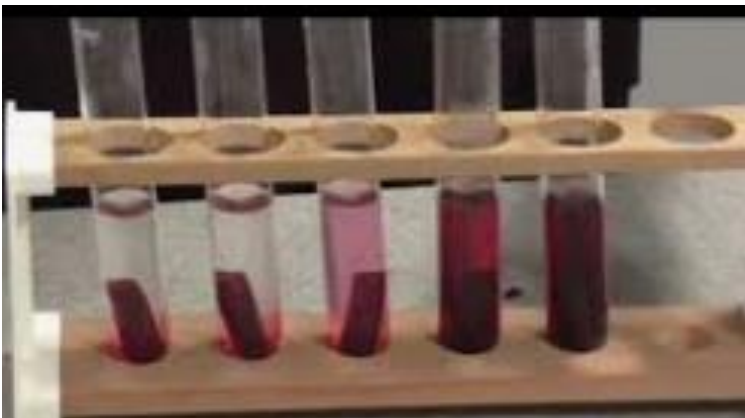
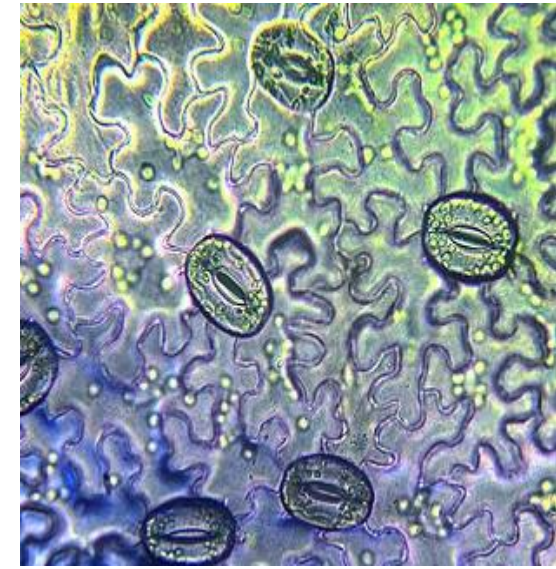


There are lots of **additional** course specific textbooks and revision guides that can be recommended **for you to purchase separately** if you wish...





Practical skills are a big part of biology A Level...



Teacher assessment of competency of practical work = **Practical Endorsement**

Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC)

1. Follows written procedures.
2. Applies investigative approaches and methods when using instruments and equipment.
3. Safely uses a range of practical equipment and materials.
4. Makes and records observations.
5. Researches, references and reports.



Results...

	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
2022	61.1	83.3	94.4	100
2019	20.0	45.7	62.9	97.1
2018	23.6	52.9	70.6	100

Come to Biology Society Friday 1pm 2207

ENVIRONMENT
CHROMOSOMES
FOSSILS DISCOVERY
BIOLOGY DNA
EUKARYOTES BACTERIA
ATTENBOROUGH ECOLOGY

BIOSOC DISEASE
ANIMALS
DARWIN ORGANS PLANTS
CELLS DISSECTION
PATHOGENS
PROKARYOTES
GENETICS RESEARCH
EVOLUTION

Student led: discussion/debate/presentation/investigation/
experimentation/exploration on **all things biological!**

Super-curricular:

Medics Group



Extending beyond the A level classroom
Opportunities for dissections, outside speakers,
coaching in successful university applications,
mock interviews, UCAT + BMAT

Thank you for considering Biology A Level



Any
questions?

