

SUBJECT GUIDE:

Exam Board - Edexcel

WHY CHOOSE BIOLOGY

The new specification is designed to engage and inspire students by showing how an understanding of many contemporary issues requires a grasp of fundamental biological ideas. Studying Biology teaches us to ask questions, make observations, evaluate evidence, and solve problems. Biologists learn how living things work, how they interact with one another, and how they evolve.

HOW WE STUDY BIOLOGY

ILPs, Course workbooks, Tests, Quizzes, Word Loops, Computer work, Notes, Reading, Practical work individually and in small groups, Presentations, Peer Teaching, Exam Practice, Homework, Mind maps, Essays, Project work..

LEARNING SKILLS REQUIRED

Basic Numeracy skills are essential; skills also required are: Writing, Analytical, Logical Reasoning, Research skills, Sketch Drawing, Note taking, Scan reading, Computing, Interest in current affairs, Memory skills, Recall Skills, Ability to absorb data, Creativity, Wide technical vocabulary.

WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS COMPLEMENT THE COURSE?

Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Psychology & Geography.

AS-BIOLOGY (AUTUMN TERM)

This part of the course will be covered in the first term AS Topics include Transport, Genes and Health, Plants and the Environment & Biodiversity.

Questions assessing student's use of **mathematical skills** will make up 10% of the exam papers. There will be **no assessed coursework** but students will be required to complete 18 **core practicals** over the two term course which cover specific skills and techniques. Practical skills are now assessed in two ways; knowledge and understanding of core practicals will be assessed in the **AS and A2 theory papers** and teacher assessment of student's competency when completing practical work will count towards the separate **Practical Endorsement** at A-Level.

Course Reading List

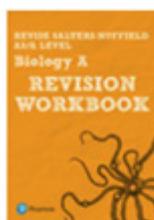


Salters-Nuffield AS/A level Biology Student Book 1 + ActiveBook

Publisher: Pearson

Author: University of York Science Education Group ,Curriculum Centre Nuffield

ISBN: 9781447991007



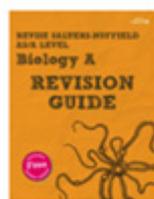
Revise Salters Nuffield AS/A level Biology Revision Workbook

Publisher: Pearson

Author: Ann Skinner

ISBN: 9781447992707

Our Revision Workbooks are designed to help students develop vital skills throughout the course and build their confidence in preparation for the exam, with guided questions, unguided questions, practice papers and a full set of answers.



Revise Salters Nuffield AS/A Level Biology Revision Guide

Publisher: Pearson

Author: Gary Skinner

ISBN: 9781447992714

Designed for hassle-free classroom and independent study, our Revision Guides are designed to complement the Student Books with a range of specially designed features such as the one-topic-per-page format, practice questions, knowledge checks and skills checks...

[Show more](#)

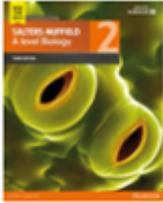
A2 BIOLOGY (SPRING TERM)

At the end of the course, students will take 3 theory papers which will test both the AS and A2 syllabus and the core practicals. In addition paper 3 will include questions on a pre-release article which will be given out about 6 weeks before the exam paper. Each paper is two hours in length.

Topics include, Ecology, Photosynthesis, Climate Change, Immunity, Forensics, Respiration & the Nervous System.

<h3>A level paper 1</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 5: On the wild side• Topic 6: Immunity, infection and forensics• Some AS topics• Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) Back ▶	<h3>A level paper 2</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 7: Run for your life• Topic 8: Grey matter• Some AS topics• Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) Back ▶
<h3>A level paper 3</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications• Questions on a pre-release article• Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) Back ▶	<h3>Practical assessment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 18 core practicals that cover all of the 12 techniques required for the practical competency measure.• Knowledge of all core practicals can be tested within exam papers.• Core practicals form part of the practical competency assessment. Back ▶

Course Reading List



Salters-Nuffield A level Biology Student Book 2 + ActiveBook

Publisher: Pearson

Author: Ann Scott, Nicola Wilberforce, Nick Owens, David Slingsby, Mark Smith, Catherine Rowell, Peter Anderson

ISBN: 9781447991014

THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Dr Alan Taylor - has long experience of teaching Biology for over 35 years; Year 7 to post-graduate. He has also been an examiner for a number of Exam Boards, including Edexcel, OCR and AQA. He spent several years carrying out research in Plant Physiology at London University and has taught in the private sector for over 25 years. He has worked with Mr Arthur for over 15 years and together they make a very experienced team.

Mr Philip Arthur - has been teaching Biology at secondary level for over 40 years and was an examiner for EDXCECEL ("A" level, "O" level and GCSE) for many years. He has a wealth of experience in teaching across a wide ability range and is particularly keen on practical work where his students invariably achieve a very high standard. Previous posts include both Head of Science and Head of Biology and he is also a very experienced personal tutor for all of the Board's Biology exams.