

IB BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Boys wishing to study Higher Level Biology are required to get a minimum of a grade 7 at IGCSE/GCSE Biology (or 87 if studying Double Award Science). At least a grade 6 is required for Standard Level.

Introduction

Students follow a linear Biology course which is assessed terminally. The subject is examined by three separate theory papers plus internally assessed coursework. Much of the SL Biology is covered by the GCSE Biology

syllabus with some topics explored at greater depth and students who gain A* at GCSE Biology would be expected to aim for level 6/7 at SL Biology. There are 4 periods per week of Biology during the IB1 year and 4 ppw during the IB2 year. The HL course offers a great deal more depth than SL Biology, with 6ppw for both IB1 & IB2. In addition, 2 more modules are studied, so there is also greater breadth than SL. HL Biology is an excellent preparation for Biology related degree courses (including medicine). The Field Trip (in year 1) is compulsory for all IB1 students.

Syllabus Content

Some of the areas explored include:

Standard (SL)
Core
Molecular Biology
Cell biology
Molecular Biology
Genetics
Ecology
Evolution & Biodiversity
Human physiology
Option
Option D: Human Physiology
Individual Investigation
Completed during the Biology Field Trip

Higher (HL)
Core
Molecular Biology
Cell biology
Molecular Biology
Genetics
Ecology
Evolution & Biodiversity
Human physiology
Option
Option D: Human Physiology
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Additional Higher Level
Nucleic Acids
Metabolism, respiration & photosynthesis
Plant Biology
Genetics & Evolution
Animal Physiology

What does success at IB Biology require?

Prep and revision for exams must be seen by students as opportunities for independent learning. HL Biologists must spend a minimum of 3 hours per week researching essays, answering structured question papers and writing up practicals (which are assessed during the theory exams), and be prepared to read around the subject; SL students will need to make c.2 hours for this. You are strongly encouraged to use your text books and scheme of work to read ahead, as this ensures lessons serve to reinforce and clarify and allows you to build your confidence and competence at the pace needed for success. Sound analytical, practical and communication skills are essential for success, although we hope these will develop during the course. The Individual Investigation will require students to complete a research project and all students are expected to attend the Biology Field Trip to Dorset where the bulk of the data collection and analysis will be completed.

For those embarking on a Biology-related career, HL Chemistry and SL (or HL) Mathematics should be taken in tandem with HL Biology. Most universities expect Medical and Veterinary Science applicants to have studied HL Biology with HL Chemistry with SL/HL Mathematics and usually expect applicants to be predicted 7,7,6 / 7,6,6 in their HL subjects, plus an overall score of 35 points or more.