

# Biology

Examination board – AQA

## AQA A-Level Biology:

Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject. The AQA specification allows us to carry out a large number of practical activities and use the practical experiences to link theory to reality.

## AQA A Level Content

**Topics for the first year of the A level course:** Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms exchange substances with their environment, Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms. Six required practical activities must be completed too.

**Topics for the second year of the A level course:** Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms' response to changes in their internal and external environments, Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression. Six required practical activities must be completed too.

**Assessment:** Linear examination assessed by three written papers at the end of the course.

Paper 1 covers content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills which is examined by a 2 hour written paper containing a mixture of long and short answer questions and one extended response question.

Paper 2 covers content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills which is examined by a 2 hour written paper containing a mixture of long and short answer questions and one comprehension question.

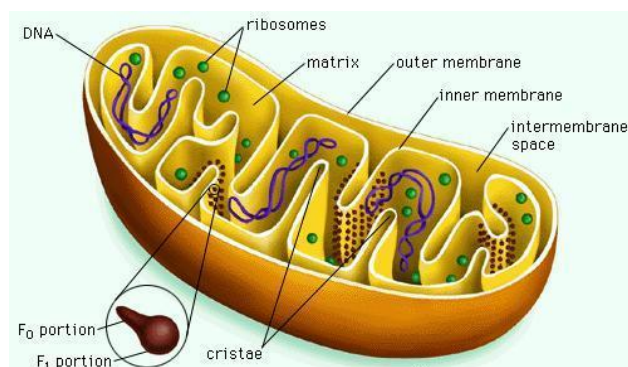
Paper 3 covers any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills which is

examined by a 2 hour written paper containing structured questions, including some about practical techniques, a critical analysis of experimental data and an essay.

A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A level. This is assessed by teachers and is based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.

## GCSE Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 – 9 in Biology. Grade 7 in Mathematics is desirable.



Mitochondrion

