

Why choose Biology?

Biology is the study of life and don't forget that you are alive so much of what you study will be about your own body, how it works, how you evolved, why and how you behave the way you do. We will cover interesting questions such as where did we come from? What keeps us going? Why don't we run out of energy? What happens when it all goes wrong? You touched on many of these ideas at GCSE, but there are so many more exciting things to find out!

Furthermore, learning Biology at A-Level can lead you into a range of fascinating and stimulating careers such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Genetic Engineering, Biotechnology and even snorkelling off the great barrier reef with sharks if that's what you enjoy!

Biology at Bryn Hafren can offer you success, through a whole range of learning activities. You will receive individual attention in an environment that you are familiar with and with experienced teachers that you know.

What subjects go well with Biology?

The AQA A-Level Biology course both at AS and A2 level has links with a number of other subjects such as: Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Geography, PE, Mathematics and Health and Social Care.

How will it be taught?

You will be taught by a team of experienced and versatile teaching professionals who have a wide selection of expertise and knowledge at their finger tips. Your teachers will be enthusiastic and committed to your education and will strive to help you achieve success!



Bryn Hafren
Comprehensive School

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Course details for AS/A2 Biology
at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive
School

Join us if you want to appreciate
the wonders of the living world!



Examining Body

This A Level Biology course is examined by AQA and additional information can be found on their website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/science/biology_noticeboard.php?id=03&prev=03

AS Biology

Course Content

Unit 1 - Biology and Disease

❖ Assessed by a 1 hour 15 minute examination taken in January or June. The paper consists of 5-7 short answer questions and 2 longer questions

Unit 2 - The Variety of Living Organisms

❖ Assessed by a 1 hour 45 minute examination taken in January or June. The paper consists of 5-7 short answer questions and 2 longer questions

Unit 3 - Investigative and Practical Skills in AS Biology

❖ This is an externally marked practical assignment which constitutes 50 raw marks. In addition to this pupils also need to complete a practical skills verification, which is teacher assessed. The unit is worth 20% of the total AS grade. The assignment is based on an experimental task that is set by the exam board in which pupils must collect, record and analyse data. Pupils must then sit a test which consists of two sections. Section one relates to the experiment that students conducted and analysed. Section two requires pupils to evaluate exemplar experimental data and procedures. The experiment and the test are conducted within a set time frame and under supervised conditions; no work is allowed to be taken home for improvement. Unit 3 is only available for June submission.

A2 Biology

Course Content

This course consists of the following 3 units:

Unit 4 - Populations and Environment

❖ Assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute examination taken in January or June. The paper consists of 6-9 short answer questions and 2 longer questions

Unit 5 - Control in Cells and in Organisms

❖ Assessed by a 2 hours 15 minute examination taken in June. The paper consists of 8-10 short answer questions and 2 longer questions

Unit 6 - Investigative and Practical Skills in AS Biology

❖ This is an externally marked practical assignment which constitutes 50 raw marks, and has the same format as unit 3 at AS.

Text Books

In 2010, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School bought in a full set of text books for pupils to use with this course. The text books are produced by the exam board and as such are specific to the course, with full-colour diagrams, exam-style questions and the appropriate degree of content and technical terminology. Books will be used in the classroom, but pupils will be given the opportunity to purchase revision guides to use at home, should they wish to supplement their lesson notes.