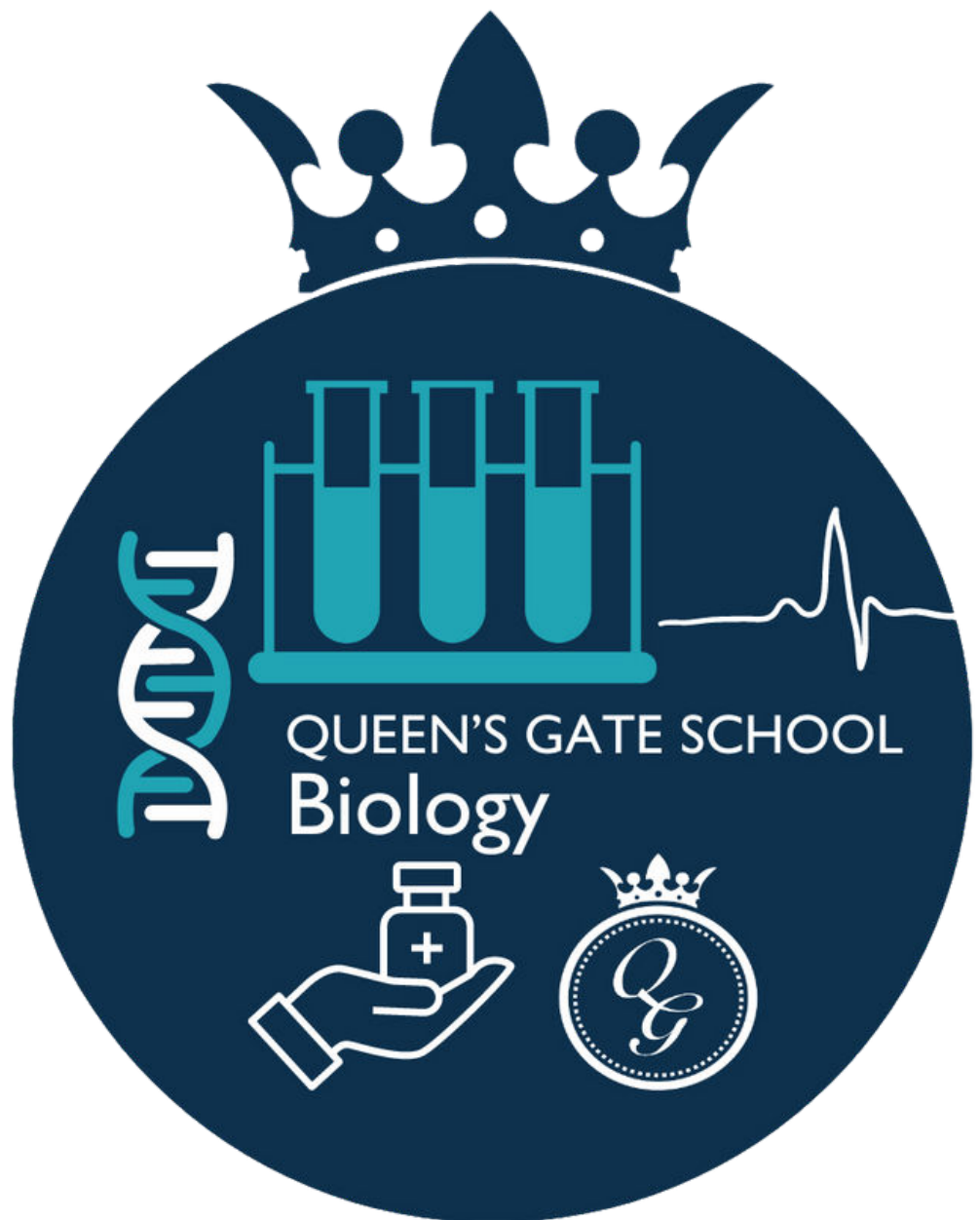


QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL
BIOLOGY
A-LEVEL GUIDE



WHY STUDY BIOLOGY A-LEVEL?

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

POSSIBLE DEGREE OPTIONS

- Biology
- Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Medicine
- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Pharmacology

POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS

Studying Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist

TOPICS COVERED

A-level Biology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows the topics you will study in each year.

First Year	Second Year
• Biological molecules • Cells • Biodiversity • Exchange and Transport	• Energy for biological processes • Microbiology and pathogens • Modern Genetics • Genetic variation • Control systems • Ecosystems

PRACTICALS

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating plant pigments
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

EXAMS

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed.

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A-level Biology builds on the work done in GCSE Science and Maths, so you'll need good GCSE results from both. Written communication is also important, and you'll need to be a strong writer. If you're interested in studying Biology after your GCSEs, ask your teacher about the qualifications you'll need.



“Biology is bigger than physics. It enjoys bigger budgets, a bigger workforce, and achieves more major discoveries. Biology is likely to remain the biggest part of science through the twenty-first century.”

Freeman Dyson, theoretical physicist and mathematician