

Pre-entry Preparation, Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to A-Level Biology at Comberton Sixth Form. We study the OCR Biology A specification.

Preparation

Before you start in September some transition work will be emailed to you/ go on the website. It is vital that you complete these assignments and activities, as they will help you to make the transition from GCSE to A Level.

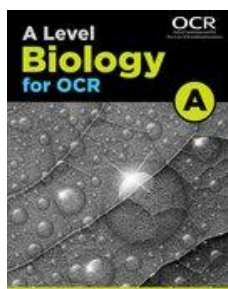
Requirements

All students must have suitable stationary needed for laboratory work and exams, namely a scientific calculator, black ball point pens, pencils, sharpener and a 30cm ruler. You will also need lined paper and an A4 binder in which to keep organised lesson notes and worksheets. Highlighter pens, file dividers, post-it notes and plastic wallets are also very useful.

For safety reasons all students studying a science A level will need a lab coat and goggles. Lab coats with studs (not buttons) can be purchased from Amazon.

Recommendations

It would be very beneficial to have your own copy of the recommended textbook.



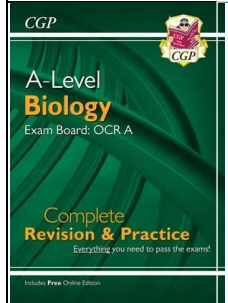
This textbook produced in collaboration with OCR, provides complete support through the linear course, delivering the breadth, depth, and skills needed to succeed.

A Level Biology A for OCR Student Book

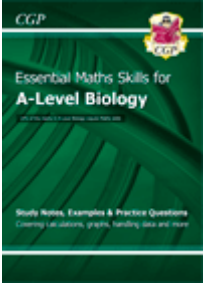
Series Editor Ann Fullick, Author Jo Locke, and Author Paul Bircher.

ISBN-13: 978-0198351924

In September the revision guides below will be ordered through school at a reduced price:

Name	Publisher	ISBN Number
 <p>A level Biology Exam Board: OCR A Complete revision & Practice <i>(This CGP revision book can be ordered from Comberton Sixth Form in September at a reduced price)</i></p>	<p>Coordination Group Publications Ltd (CGP) Publication Date:2018</p>	<p>ISBN: 9781789080353</p>

If you are not studying Maths A level this book is also very useful:

 <p>Essential Maths Skills for A level Biology</p> <p><i>(This CGP revision book can be ordered from Comberton Sixth Form in September)</i></p>	Coordination Group Publications Ltd (CGP) Publication Date: 2015	ISBN: 978 1 84762 323 2
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Field trip

Students will be required to attend a field trip in the summer term of 2024. Essential practical work will be undertaken to complete the Practical Endorsement component of the course. We will endeavour to keep the cost of this trip down as much as possible. There is a sixth form bursary fund available for those who are eligible for some financial support.

Reading

You might also like to read around the subject, there are numerous popular science books available that are great at extending your understanding of Biology. e.g.

David Attenborough Any of the books of his TV series.

Bill Bryson *The Body*-uncovers the workings of organs, muscles and bones and is steeped in fascinating anecdote and enlightening trivia.

Emily Anthes *Frankenstein's cat* - Discover how glow in the dark fish are made and more great Biotechnology breakthroughs.

Research

The field of biology is constantly changing so it is useful to keep track of current issues, Magazines such as: New Scientist, Nature and Focus magazine are all great at covering topical issues in Biological science.

The Big Picture provides an excellent set of resources. Do look at their website. <https://www.stem.org.uk/big-picture/resource-collection>

We are looking forward to meeting you. If you have any questions regarding your preparation for A level biology, please contact Mrs James: rjames@combertonvc.org