

Course Name: **Biology A-level**

Exam board and qualification: AQA A-level

Text Book: New A-Level Biology for AQA: Year 1 & 2 Student Book with Online Edition (CGP A-Level Biology) Paperback

Recommended learning book whilst off before starting the course in September is the following:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Head-Start-level-Biology-Level-ebook/dp/B00VE2NIOI/ref=reads_cwrtbar_3/258-1476289-4939838?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B00VE2NIOI&pd_rd_r=06841725-e6b6-4c9d-89e6-4ee135b79b1f&pd_rd_w=qBgT5&pd_rd_wg=9qAco&pf_rd_p=1157b281-769f-489c-aa16-4dd23f165f5a&pf_rd_r=JHWG9ERN31QR0XM1BSYV&psc=1&refRID=JHWG9ERN31QR0XM1BSYV

This book is a great stepping stone from GCSE to S-level and can be downloaded to phones/ kindle devices or purchased as a hard copy for around £5 (pre-owned versions are available for around £1-£2). This is by no means compulsory but will make you very well prepared come the start of the course to have read over the sections such as 'Biological molecules' and 'Cells'.

Recommended Reading

Scientific journals such as:

- New Scientist
- Scientific American
- Nature
- Science
- Biological Sciences Review
- British Medical Journal
- Any scientific articles in newspapers (eg the Guardian on Wednesday)

To *REALLY* further your imagination, passion and curiosity in Biology, please research these on Amazon and select a few to read:

Richard Dawkins:

- The Selfish Gene
- The Blind Watchmaker.
- Unweaving the Rainbow
- Climbing Mount Improbable
- The Ancestor's Tale

Steve Jones:

- Y: The Descent of Men In the Blood: God, Genes and Destiny Almost Like a Whale: The 'Origin of Species' Updated
- The Language of the genes

Matt Ridley:

- Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature
- The Language of Genes
- Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code
- Nature Via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human

James Watson:

- DNA: The Secret of Life
- The Double Helix: Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA

Lewis Thomas:

- The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher. The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a

Biology Watcher Barry Gibb: The Rough Guide to the Brain (Rough Guides Reference Titles)

Charles Darwin:

- The origin of species

Relevant Websites

- <http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/index.htm> – An interactive cell biology site
- <http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/VL/GG> – A web site showing illustrations of many processes of biotechnology
- <http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html> – Explore the genetic code
- <http://nobelprize.org> – Details of the history of the best scientific discoveries
- <http://nature.com> – The site of the scientific journal
- <http://royalsociety.org> – Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments
- <http://www.nhm.ac.uk> – The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material
- <http://www.bmj.com> – The website of the British Medical Journal
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment - The BBC news page for Science and the Environment

Useful websites for curriculum notes, practice questions and maths skills support:

<https://mathsmadeeasy.co.uk/a-level-biology-revision/>

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>

Distance learning sites: Seneca learning:- <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Go to the Seneca website and log in using your school email account address/username

e.g. 17jbloggs@allhallows.org.uk or 17jbloggs

Password is the same as your usually one to log with at school, if you forget you can reset using school email account

Once logged on go to classes -> join class -> class code: **bew73t8jur**

If never used before you will need to sign up using your school email account

Youtube / videos

<https://snaprevise.co.uk>

The snap revise videos are great and available on YouTube for A-level Biology

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2yOqKblASJzqMZfRL0DbYA>

Ms Cooper's A-level Biology videos are also a great help!

<https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=science>

Ted Talks Science topic is full of pioneering research and debates, often around the topic of Biology.

Tasks:

1. Attempt the work on Seneca for transition to A-level Biology- instructions of how to log in are listed above already and you should have done it in Year 10/11 here too. This should recap crucial knowledge from Year 11 and give you a taster of some topics you will cover at A-level.
2. Research all eukaryotic and prokaryotic cellular structures beyond the 5 core structures for animal cells learnt from GCSE and produce detailed labelled diagrams and written work to support/ model/ PowerPoint to present the information you find in whichever way they prefer
3. Read one of the books or articles from a scientific journal of your choice on the recommended reading list and write a 300-500 word summary account of this ready to share with others in your class when you start in September.

Any questions email staffyfl@allhallows.org.uk