



PLUME ACADEMY - LEARNING OVERVIEW

Year	12
Course	Biology A
Specification Number/Exam Board	H020 OCR
Examination Papers and Weighting	Breadth of Biology 50% Depth of Biology 50%

Prior Learning

The course builds on prior learning by a content-led approach. As students' progress through the course, they build on key concepts of Biology from GCSE as well as developing practical skills necessary for the Practical endorsement.

Curriculum Intent – What are the curriculum aims?

OCR's A Level in Biology A specification aims to encourage learners to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods.
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject.
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works' (HSW))

Curriculum Implementation – What will my child be learning?

The subject uses a two-teacher approach where each teacher will teach separate topics.

Module 1 is taught and then used throughout the length of the course as part of the ongoing Practical Endorsement across the two years.

Term 1	Half Term 1	Module 2 cell structure Module 2 Biological molecules Module 2 Biological membranes
	Half Term 2	Module 2 Enzymes Module 2 Nucleic acids Module 2 Cell division, cell diversity and cell differentiation



Term 2	Half Term 3	Module 3 Exchange surfaces and breathing Module 3 Animal transport Module 4 Communicable diseases
	Half Term 4	Module 3 Plant transport Module 4 Classification
Term 3	Half Term 5	Module 4 Biodiversity Exam preparation
	Half Term 6	Start of year 13 content Module 6 Ecosystems Module 6 Populations and sustainability

Curriculum Impact – How will my child be assessed and receive feedback?

Learners must complete both components (01 and 02) to be awarded the OCR AS Level in Biology A.

Breadth in biology (01) 70 Marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

Depth in biology (02) 70 Marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

Content is split into four teaching modules:

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2 – Foundations in biology
- Module 3 – Exchange and transport
- Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Both components assess content from all four modules.

Super-Curricular Opportunities – Supporting and Extending Learning

Useful study resources	If a student is really passionate about this subject they can...
<p>Revise OCR AS/A Level Biology A Revision guide and workbook (Pearson) Seneca</p>	<p>New Scientist www.newscientist.com Nature www.nature.com Biological Sciences Review https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/life-sciences/outreach/biological-sciences-review/ Big Picture https://bigpictureeducation.com/ British Medical Journal http://www.bmj.com Scientific American https://www.scientificamerican.com/</p>