



PLUME ACADEMY - LEARNING OVERVIEW

Year	13
Course	Biology A
Specification Number/Exam Board	H420 - OCR
Examination Papers and Weighting	Biological processes 37% Biological diversity 37% Unified biology 26%

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 AS and 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 5 Communication and homeostasis Module 5 Excretion Module 5 Photosynthesis Module 5 Neuronal communication
	Half Term 2	Module 5 Hormonal communication Module 5 Plant and animal responses Module 5 Respiration
Term 2	Half Term 3	Module 6 Cellular control



		Module 6 Cloning and biotechnology
	Half Term 4	Module 6 Patterns of inheritance Module 6 Manipulating genomes
Term 3	Half Term 5	Examination preparation

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

Learners must complete all components (01, 02, 03 and 04) to be awarded the OCR A Level in Biology A.

Biological processes (01) 100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper

Biological diversity (02) 100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper

Content is split into six 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
- Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Component 01 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Component 02 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Component 03 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6).

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>