Pershore Sixth Form

A Level

Biology





“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”
— Albert Einstein

Introducing A Level Biology

A Level Biology at Pershore High School offers a supportive environment for students who are curious about the living world. The course combines engaging theory with hands-on science, including all assessed practical activities required for the qualification, plus additional practical work to extend skills and deepen understanding. Our small class sizes mean students receive personalised support from enthusiastic teachers who are passionate about Biology and know the students well, helping everyone to grow in confidence and achieve their best.

Students also enjoy enriching experiences outside the classroom, including the re-introduction of our annual DNA Day, now held at 'We The Curious' in Bristol — a fantastic opportunity to explore real-world science in action. The trip supports students' understanding of the 'Manipulating Genomes' topic in Module 6 of Year 2 and enables them to carry out DNA techniques using their own DNA!

We are also arranging a biology field trip to carry out the Ecology Sampling Practical, one of the assessed practical activities in the course. All students are supported in working towards a *Pass* in their A Level Biology practical endorsement.

Whether students aspire to careers in healthcare, research, environmental science or simply love understanding how life works, Biology at Pershore High School provides a strong and inspiring foundation, with consistently excellent results.

Teaching & Learning

A Level Biology at Pershore High School Sixth Form is taught by three highly experienced A Level Biology teachers who work closely with each together to support every student. Lessons are carefully planned and tailored to meet individual needs, with small class sizes allowing teachers to provide personalised guidance and regular one-to-one feedback

Students receive feedback in lessons, through homework, and during Period 10 sessions to help them stay on track and make strong progress. Teaching focuses on clear explanations and structured support, while giving students frequent opportunities to develop practical, analytical and mathematical skills, as well as planned time to enhance exam technique. Students are assessed regularly and receive individualised feedback, so they always understand how to improve and achieve their very best.

A Level Biology Assessment

OCR A Level Biology A is assessed through a combination of written examinations and practical work completed across the two-year course. At the end of Year 13, students sit **three exam papers** that together make up **100% of the A Level grade**:

Paper 1: Biological Processes (2 hours 15 min)

Covers core topics such as cells, biological molecules, enzymes, exchange surfaces, respiration and photosynthesis.

Paper 2: Biological Diversity (2 hours 15 min)

Assesses content including biodiversity, evolution, disease, immunity, ecosystems, and classification.

Paper 3: Unified Biology (1 hour 30 min)

A synoptic exam testing understanding across the whole course, requiring students to link ideas from different topics.

Practical Endorsement (Pass/Fail)

Alongside the written exams, students complete a series of **practical activities** throughout the two years. These are assessed by teachers in lessons and during fieldwork. Students who demonstrate the required skills receive a separate **Practical Endorsement** recorded as a *Pass* on their certificate.

This endorsement does not affect the final grade, but many universities—particularly for science, healthcare, and life science courses **expect students to have achieved it**.

Subject combinations

You can study A Level Biology with lots of other subjects, but it pairs especially well with:

- **Chemistry** – The most strongly linked subject, essential for many medical and life-science pathways.
- **Mathematics** – Helps with data analysis, statistics and problem-solving used throughout the course.
- **Psychology** – Supports understanding of behaviour, neuroscience and health sciences.
- **Geography** – Works well for ecology, environmental science and sustainability routes.
- **Sport & Physical Activity** – Ideal for students interested in sports science, physiology and health careers.
- **Physics** – Useful for broader scientific pathways and quantitative skills.
- **Food Science & Nutrition** – Complements Biology for students interested in diet, health, food technology, sports nutrition or public health careers.
- **Business Studies** – Useful for students considering careers in science-related industries, healthcare management, biotechnology, environmental consultancy or any science field where commercial understanding is valuable.

Progression Routes

A Level Biology opens the door to a wide range of exciting university courses, apprenticeships and careers. Many students progress into areas such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, biomedical sciences, pharmacology and other health-related fields. Biology is also an excellent foundation for degrees in environmental science, ecology, conservation, marine biology, genetics, biochemistry and agricultural or food sciences.

Beyond science-specific routes, the analytical, practical and problem-solving skills developed in A Level Biology are valued in many other sectors, including education, sports science, forensics, psychology, laboratory work, biotechnology and research. Whether students plan to enter a science profession or simply want a subject that keeps their future options wide open.

Entry and skill requirements

Entry requirements for A Level Biology are:

- G6 in Maths GCSE **and**
- G4 in English or English Literature GCSE **and**
- G6 in Biology GCSE **or** G6-6 in Combined Science

What do our students think?

“I have found A level biology to be a very interesting and thought-provoking subject that is like a puzzle. When you understand the different pieces, they fit together, filling in the gaps to see the whole picture, gaining a greater understanding of everything you see around you, from people to plants.” - ***Noah, Year 13***

“Studying A Level Biology opens the door to understanding the intricate mechanisms of life, empowering you to explore the wonders of the natural world, and make difference in fields like medicine, environmental science and biotechnology”. - ***Hayden, Year 13***

“I’m pleased that I chose to study A Level Biology at PHS because the teachers want to see us do well and that be noticed in out of our lessons. I find it really helpful, especially since Biology is the 4th Hardest A Level you can do!” **– *Ruby, Year 13*** *(2024)*

Contact us

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