

IGCSE Biology

IGCSE Biology aims to enable students to be able to:

- better understand the technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- further interest in, and care for, the environment
- better understand the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, economy, technology, ethics, the community and the environment
- develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study at A Level and in everyday life.

The course content is divided into four main sections. The first two sections are covered in Year 10, the second two in Year 11:

I: Characteristics and Classification of Living Organisms

II: Organisation and Maintenance of the Organism (Cell structure, Diet & Digestion, Photosynthesis, Transport in Plants and Humans, Homeostasis and Response to Stimuli, Excretion and Respiration)

III: Development of the Organism and the Continuity of Life (Reproduction, Growth, Genetics, Inheritance)

IV: Relationships of Organisms with each other and the Environment (Nutrient cycles, Ecology, Populations, Pollution and Human Interactions with the Environment)

The course is examined externally at the end of year 11, when students will sit two papers that test their understanding of the content covered; one multiple-choice and one extended written paper. In addition to this, students also have to sit a practical examination which tests their practical skills, data handling and analytical skills.

The expectation at TIS is that all students will complete the extended CIE syllabus, covering IGCSE grades A*-D. Any student who is not meeting these expectations can be asked to take the core syllabus, covering IGCSE grades C-G.

During the course of the programme at TIS, students are regularly assessed, both formally and informally, using a range of different strategies. There is a strong emphasis on the practical nature of the subject and students are expected to develop excellent practical skills through a range of hands-on experiences. There are formal tests carried out at various points during the year (approximately every six weeks, depending on the units covered).

Texts:

Cambridge IGCSE Biology

Jackie Clegg, Gareth Price and Mike Smith

Published by Collins

ISBN: 978 0007 755424 2

Students who wish to extend themselves and read around the subject in more depth might like to purchase this text as well, although it is not compulsory for the course:

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D.G. Mackean

Published by Hodder Murray

ISBN: 978 0719 58053 6