IGCSE BIOLOGY

Why should I choose Biology?

- In Biology you will investigate the living world around you.
- Biology will show you how your body works and how to keep it healthy.
- Biology develops your analytical thinking.
- Biology will allow you to talk about controversial issues such as birth control, drug abuse and evolution.

Is it for me?

- Yes, if you are enthusiastic about science.
- Yes, if you want to know more about yourself and health issues which affect you.
- Yes, if you want to know more about the variety of life on Earth.
- Yes, if you enjoy practical work; designing and carrying out experiments.
- Yes, if you enjoy discussing issues.

Why study Cambridge IGCSE Biology?

As well as a subject focus, the Biology syllabus enables students to:

- better understand the biological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method in everyday life
- further interest in, and care for, the environment
- better understand the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, technology and the environment
- Develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and in everyday life.

Course Content

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)

How will I learn?

A variety of learning methods are used throughout the course which include practical work, presentations, group work, audio-visual tasks, field research, essay writing and self-assessment.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two papers that test your understanding of the content covered: one multiple-choice (45 minutes and worth 30% of the total marks) and one extended written paper (75 minutes and 50% of the total); and a practical test (75 minutes and 20% of the total) that tests practical technique, 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.

Post 16 Opportunities:

Cambridge IGCSE Biology is accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability and knowledge.
Biology is an ideal foundation for:
- AS and A2 Biology, Chemistry, Geography, P.E. and Psychology.
- Further studies in Health and Social Care.
- Art & Media Studies.
- Further and Higher qualifications in Biology

Through critical thinking, independent investigations and analysis, Biology can lead to many career paths. Examples include: health and social work, genetic counselling, environmental research, agriculture, landscape gardening, the police (forensics, CSI!), law, education, National Park management, medicine, dentistry and media work (David Attenborough??). Many employers like to see students who have a qualification in Biology, as they often have a good understanding of people and the world around them.

Biology also complements many other subjects at IGCSE, including IGCSE Geography, Chemistry and Physics

Contact for further information

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