

A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2023

Biology



The AQA A Level course is designed to follow on from double or triple Science GCSE. This means that you do not need to read any specific books before you start the A level course. However, we do strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with the websites listed in the guidance that follows. We also urge that you order Biological Sciences Review and we will give you details on how to do this shortly after you start your course. Essential preparation Before you start you should download the specification from the AQA website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/specification-at-a-glance>

Specimen materials can also be downloaded from this site:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/assessment-resources>

Every student will need the following text book: AQA Biology 2nd Edition by Glenn & Susan Toole - Oxford publishing.

Wider reading and preparation

We suggest that you to visit both the Natural History Museum and the Wellcome Collection before you start. Entrance to these Scientific Institutions is free for students. If possible also visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew or at Wakehurst Place (RH17 6TN) to find out about their role in conservation. A visit to the MRC National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill is also highly recommended.

The Wellcome Trust

Website <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk>

There are interesting publications to download and you can sign up for future free publications. The Wellcome Collection itself is at 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE

Natural History Museum

For full details of free events and lectures explore their website <http://www.nhm.ac.uk>

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

<http://www.kew.org> for full details

The MRC National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill

<http://www.nimr.mrc.ac.uk>

Pre-course suggested preparation

It would be advisable to prepare for the A-Level course via online learning tools such as Seneca Learning (<https://www.senecalearning.com/>). Find the "AQA A-Level Biology" course and attempt the first few exercises and topics as a way of easing yourself into the A-Level specification. Specifics from this site will be used during the school year, so setting up your own (free) account is recommended at this stage.

Pre-course assignment

We would like you to read a book/article in an area related to Biology and prepare a 3 minute Powerpoint (or prezi) presentation summarising what you read and what your thoughts on it are. Please be imaginative with your choice of topic. You will be presenting these during your first few lessons in Biology, so ensure that

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they are ready to be presented on your first lesson. Ensure to include where you sourced the information in your presentation.

Suggested reading for this presentation:

- The Blind Watchmaker (Richard Dawkins) ISBN-10: 0141026162
- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat (Oliver Sacks) ISBN-10: 0330523627
- The Epigenetics Revolution (Nessa Carey) ISBN-10: 1848313470
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Rebecca Skloot) ISBN-10: 0330533444
- Your Inner Fish: The amazing discovery of our 375-million-year-old ancestor (Niel Shubin) ISBN-10: 0141027584
- Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters (Matt Ridley) ISBN-10: 185702835X
- Power, Sex, Suicide: Mitochondria & the meaning of Life (Nick Lane) ISBN-10: 0199205647
- New Scientist Magazine
- Biological Sciences Review