

# IB Biology



## Introduction:

IB Biology is the study of living things, and how they work and interact with and depend on each other. You will study life at all scales from the very small (the molecules and cells of organisms) to the very large (ecosystems and the biosphere) and in doing so will gain a sense of how all the moving parts of life fit together to create the wonder of the living world around you!

In IB Biology, you will consider questions such as:

- Where did the first cells come from?
- How does evolution lead to new species?
- How does photosynthesis actually work?
- How do muscles work?
- How have humans affected biodiversity and what can we do about it?

Biology is a practical and theoretical subject, so you can expect to develop your practical skills through a wide range of interesting experiments.

## Course structure:

The IB Biology course is organised around four key themes:

- Unity and diversity
- Form and function
- Interaction and dependence
- Continuity and change

Each theme is then considered at four different levels of scale from the very small (individual molecules) to the very large (entire ecosystems).

The IB Biology course is designed to be taught across 240 hours of lesson time, of which 60 hours should be practically-focussed.

## Entry requirements:

To be admitted onto this course you will need to meet the following requirements:

- Combined Science at grade 6- 6 or
- Biology GCSE grade 6 and at least grade 5 in Chemistry and Physics higher papers

## Careers:

A good grade in IB Biology can help unlock a wide range of careers including:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary science
- Forensic science
- Pharmacy
- Nutrition / dietetics
- Environmental science
- Microbiology
- Paramedic
- Physiotherapy
- Biochemistry
- Immunology
- Nursing/midwifery

## Assessment:

### Internal assessment (20%):

- A detailed experimental investigation on a research question of your choice.

### External assessment (80%):

- **Paper 1, 2 hours (36%):**
  - Paper 1A – Multiple choice questions.
  - Paper 1B – Data-based questions.
- **Paper 2, 2 hours 30 min (44%):**
  - Short answer and extended response questions.