

GCSE BIOLOGY

EXAM BOARD: AQA

EXAM BOARD WEBSITE:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

COURSE CODE: 8461

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT/EXAM WEIGHTING: 100% examination

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a course designed to be delivered over two and a half academic years. The final grading for this qualification will be awarded at the end of Year 11.

Studying the separate sciences means pupils will cover more content than GCSE Combined Sciences.

The GCSE in Biology will provide great preparation for AS and A-Level, without overlapping content.

ASSESSMENT:

The GCSE is assessed through two terminal examinations. Each of these is worth 100 marks and are 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

Practical work is at the heart of this specification. Questions in the written exams will draw on the knowledge and understanding pupils have gained by carrying out the practical activities set out by the examination board.

These questions will count for at least 15% of the overall marks for the qualification.

The course is suitable for people who love trying to understand the world around them. Pupils, who enjoy finding reasons for things that happen, look for answers between cause and effect and apply logic to everyday situations.

CAREERS/JOBS:

This course is relevant for anyone who wishes to pursue a career with a science background. There are many jobs that require a good level of biological knowledge from botanist to zoologist and this qualification is the perfect stepping stone to A-level Biology, apprenticeships or straight into your chosen field of work. The skills acquired throughout the course will be transferable to other GCSE courses which require any use of mathematics, data analysis or evaluation skills.

At Etone College Sixth Form, pupils can continue studying an A Level in Biology provided they meet the entry requirements of a grade 6 or higher. In addition, they would also qualify to study the level 3 qualification in Applied Science.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr D Clinton