

The course will:

- Provide you with the scientific knowledge and practical skills required to help you to make sense of the world around you and to take an active role in its development.
- Help you acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how Science works and develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods which will help you to decide whether claims made in the name of Science are reasonable.
- Allow you to develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for Biology and to help you to recognise its increasingly essential role in society.
- Give you a glimpse into the extraordinary opportunities and variety of work available to those wishing to continue with Biology beyond GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the course there are two written examination papers of 1 hour and 45 minutes, which assess knowledge and understanding of the theoretical content and also include questions of a more general nature requiring understanding of the nature of scientific evidence and its importance in all aspects of everyday life.

Paper 1 **50%** **1 hour 45 minutes**

Topics 1 – 4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Paper 2 **50%** **1 hour 45 minutes**

Topics 5 – 8: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; Ecology and key ideas

We believe it is important that you do not feel abrupt changes in your Science education as you progress through Years 7 to 11. Although we begin teaching Science as separate subjects from Y9, you will have been introduced to many GCSE concepts in Y7 and Y8 and need to be able to draw on these ideas with confidence as you progress through the courses.

Further Information

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus; Biology 8461

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