

St John's Curriculum Overview – Year 13

Subject title	Biology
Setting arrangements	Mixed prior attainment within the two classes
Time allowance each fortnight	9 hours

Introduction

- Biology at St Johns is linear and therefore studied at **A-Level only**. We cover the **AQA Biology specification (7401, 7402)**
- Students work towards **three externally assessed written exams** in A-Level Biology. All papers will be **synoptic** and feature the following types of questions: multiple choice, calculations, structured, closed short answer, levelled response questions and practical skills.
- The **AQA Biology** specification has been written to inspire students, nurture a passion for Biology and lay groundwork for further study in courses like biological sciences and medicine.
- **AQA Biology** is written in a 'context free' style so teachers are free to bring the subject alive in their own way working with the strengths and weaknesses of the students.
- **Required practical's** will be assessed and tracked throughout the two years.

Topics, Content and Assessment covered during the course

Term	Teacher 1 topics and content	Teacher 1 Assessment details	Teacher 2 topics and content	Teacher 2 Assessment details
Term 1	3.5 Energy transfer in and between organisms 3.5.2 Respiration	End of topic test: Respiration: 3.5.2	3.5 Energy transfer in and between organisms 3.5.3 Energy and ecosystems 3.5.4 Nutrient cycles	End of topic test: Energy and ecosystems: 3.5.3 End of topic test: Nutrient cycles: 3.5.4
Term 2	3.7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems 3.7.2 Populations	End of topic test: Populations 3.7.2	3.5.1 Photosynthesis	End of topic test: Photosynthesis: 3.5.1
Term 3	3.7.3 Evolution may lead to speciation	End of topic test: Evolution may lead to	3.6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments 3.6.1 Stimuli both internal and external are	End of topic test: Response to stimuli: 3.6.1.1

		speciation: 3.7.3	detected and lead to a response 3.6.1.1 Survival and response 3.6.1.2 Receptors 3.6.1.3 Control of heart rate	– 3.6.1.3
Term 4	3.6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments 3.6.4 Homeostasis is the maintenance of a stable internal environment 3.6.4.1 Principles of homeostasis 3.6.4.2 Control of blood glucose 3.6.4.3 Control of blood water potential General revision (Including assessment for Populations and ecosystems: 3.7.4) MOCKS	End of topic test: Homeostasis: 3.6.4.1 to 3.6.4.3	3.6.2 Nervous coordination 3.6.2.1 Nerve impulses 3.6.2.2 Synaptic transmission 3.6.3 Skeletal muscles General revision (Including assessment for 3..7.1: Inheritance) MOCKS	End of topic test: Nervous coordination: 3.6.2.1 and 3.6.2.2 End of topic test: Muscles: 3.6.3
Term 5	Structured essay practice Past Paper question books Final specimen paper		Core practical review Maths skills Final Specimen paper	
Term 6	STUDY LEAVE			

Resources Recommended for Revision and where they are available:

- AQA Biology 2nd edition Toole and Toole Oxford press (discounts available through the school library)
- Use good **revision websites** (and suitable videos) to give an alternative wording to some explanations.

Extended Learning (homework):

- Review your class notes after each lesson using the relevant textbook pages
- Complete exam questions in the **homework booklets** and mark them using the answers
- Do the **summary questions** in the textbook and check the answers
- Revise effectively for each end of topic test

Additional support and help for the course

- Use the **specification checklists** to ensure you know what you do and don't know in each topic (provided at the start of the year)
- After each review test, complete **feedback homework** on your weaker areas, to get into good study habits. This enables you to build up revision material throughout the year, not just before the final exams. Get a 'study buddy'
- Once you know what areas of each topic you do not understand, do more past paper exam questions and revise those areas in your private study sessions.
- If you still do not understand these areas, then ask your teachers for help!
- Attend the **year 13 revision sessions**
- **Redo review tests** once you have improved your understanding of the weaker areas.