



Create your future

Title of Course		Biology A (Salters-Nuffield)	
Level	A Level	Examination Board	Edexcel
What the subject is about	Biology is the study of life itself and spans from the inner workings of a cell organelle to interactions of complex organisms within ecosystems, not forgetting everything else in between!		
What you will learn	<p>The course covers a broad range of the field of biology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk • Topic 2: Genes and Health • Topic 3: Voice of the Genome • Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources • Topic 5 On the Wild Side • Topic 6: Immunity Infection and Forensics • Topic 7: Run for your life • Topic 8: Grey Matter <p>Each topic uses real-life contexts within which you will develop your understanding and knowledge of key biological principles, as well as develop your investigative and mathematical skills. The topics also support the development of analysis and application skills.</p>		
How you will learn	Through a range of methods and opportunities, including individual and collaborative learning. There will be a range of opportunities to engage with experiments in order to enhance understanding and also to develop investigative skills and techniques.		
Independent learning	Throughout the course independent learning is fostered, and you will be expected to review and extend learning that takes place during lessons. Thorough the first module independent learning skills are explicitly taught, including effective note-taking, and guidance is given throughout the course. In addition, there will be an opportunity for you to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).		
Coursework and Examination Information	<p>There will be three written exams at the end of the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paper 1 – The Natural Environment and Species (33.3% of final mark, 2 hours):</i> This will assess Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. • <i>Paper 2 – Energy Exercise and Coordination (33.3% of final mark, 2 hours):</i> This will assess Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. • <i>Paper 3 – General and Practical Applications in Biology (33.3% of final mark, 2 hours):</i> This will assess all the topics and a section will be based on a pre-released article and you will apply your knowledge to a new context. <p>Questions assessing mathematical skills in biology will make up 10% of the exam papers. In addition, you will complete a number of core practicals throughout the course which will cover specific skills and techniques. These will be assessed through the examinations outlined above and also through teacher assessment of your skills, techniques and competency when completing practical work. This will provide you will a Practical Endorsement pass, alongside your A Level grade.</p>		
Your future career	Biology helps you to build up research, communication, problem solving and analytical skills. Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, including: Nursing, Dentistry, Forensic Science, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Botany, Environmental Science, Zoology, Geology, Oceanography, Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Teaching, Science Writing, Genetics and research.		
Staff Contact	Mr Jon Searle Leader of Learning Science Jon.Searle@uaesouthbank.org.uk 020 7277 3000	Entry requirements	Grade 5 in maths and English