

# WHY CHOOSE THE GCSE IN BIOLOGY

## The GCSE Science suite from September 2026

The following pathways are available in the suite:

### GCSE Biology/Chemistry/Physics

Learners study for GCSEs in each of the three sciences and receive a separate grade in each one.

### GCSE The Sciences (Double Award)

Learners study all three sciences and receive two GCSE grades.

### GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award)

Learners study all three sciences in a context-led approach and receive one GCSE grade.

## WHY CHOOSE GCSE BIOLOGY?

Biology is the study of life. It will enable you to develop a vast array of skills and acquire knowledge about the natural world and all the living things within it. Gaining a GCSE in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities and will allow you to continue to A level in this subject.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Unit 1: Cells, organ systems and ecosystems

This unit is normally covered in Year 10.

It comprises six topics

- Cells and movement across membranes
- Respiration and the respiratory system in humans
- Digestion and the digestive system in humans
- Circulatory system in humans
- Plants and photosynthesis
- Ecosystems, nutrient cycles and human impact on the environment

### Unit 2: Variation, Homeostasis and Micro-organisms

This unit is normally covered in Year 11. It comprises eight topics

- Classification and biodiversity
- Cell division and stem cells
- DNA and inheritance
- Variation and evolution
- Response and regulation
- Kidneys and homeostasis
- Micro-organisms and their applications
- Disease, defence and treatment

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- knowledge and understanding of key areas of biology and its application
- competence and confidence in a variety of practical, and problem-solving skills
- scientific enquiry and modelling skills and understanding in laboratory, and work-related contexts
- understanding of the relationships between data, evidence and explanations
- understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues
- communication, mathematical and technological skills in scientific contexts

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three units, all of which are marked by WJEC

Unit 1 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification. It is usually sat at the end of year 10. This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 2 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification. It is usually sat at the end of year 10. This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 3 is a scientific enquiry assessment which makes up 10% of the qualification. It is usually completed during January or February of year 11. This assessment is untiered.

## CAREERS WITH GCSE BIOLOGY

GCSE Biology can open a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: Medicine and healthcare, science and research, agriculture, sport and fitness and education.

To find out more visit [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)