

# RMGS

## Science – BIOLOGY

### A LEVEL

#### ***What are the aims of the course?***

To develop a broad knowledge and understanding of biological facts, concepts and principles, to appreciate their significance and have the skills to use them in new and evolving situations.  
To engender an enjoyment and interest in the study of living organisms.  
To prepare students for further biological studies in higher education or simply to act as a stimulating course on its own.

#### ***What does it involve?***

The new OCR Biology A course is followed at A-level (H420) and the specification can be viewed on the OCR website.

**Module 1:** Development of practical skills in Biology.

**Module 2:** Foundations in Biology (includes cell structure, biological molecules, enzymes, biological membranes, cell division).

**Module 3:** Exchange and Transport (includes exchange surfaces, transport in plants and animals).

**Module 4:** Biodiversity, evolution and disease (includes communicable diseases).

**Module 5:** Communications, homeostasis and energy (includes nervous communication, excretion, photosynthesis and respiration).

**Module 6:** Genetics, evolution and ecosystems (includes cloning and biotechnology, patterns of inheritance).

#### ***How is it assessed?***

**Paper 1:** Biological processes has a 2h 15mins written examination worth 37% of total A-level.

**Paper 2:** Biological diversity also has a 2h 15mins written examination worth 37% of the total A-level.

**Paper 3:** Unified Biology has a 1h 30mins written examination worth 26% of the total A-level.

#### ***Are there any specific entry requirements?***

A grade **A** in GCSE Biology and grades **B** in GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. Alternatively, grade **A** in both GCSE Core and Additional Science, with an A in the Biology component. In addition, a grade B in GCSE Mathematics is required.

#### ***Why is it a useful qualification?***

A good foundation for those wishing to pursue any career in which Biology is a part, e.g. medicine, veterinary medicine, forensic science, biotechnology, biochemistry, physiotherapy, nursing and environmental studies.

For those studying the course without the wish to pursue Biology further, it allows the development of important life skills and informed decisions to be made on many current issues that are having an impact on our lives, e.g. gene therapy and climate change.