

# Biology

Examination board: AQA

Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject. The AQA specification allows us to carry out a large number of practical activities which we use to link theory to reality.

## Content

### Topics for the first year of the course:

Biological molecules, cells, organisms exchange substances with their environment, genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms. Pupils also complete six required practical activities.

### Topics for the second year of the course:

Energy transfers in and between organisms, organisms' response to changes in their internal and external environments, genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression. Pupils also complete six required practical activities.

## Assessment

Linear examination assessed by three written papers at the end of the course.

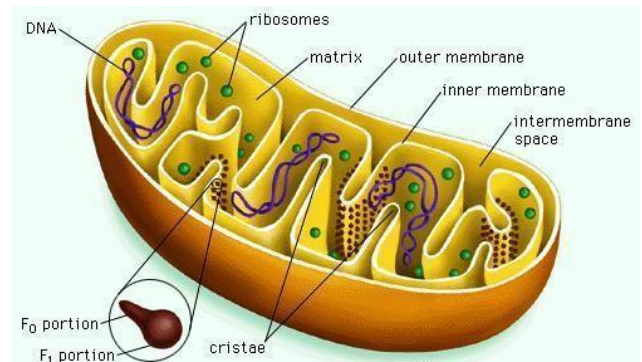
Paper 1 covers content from topics 1-4; this includes relevant practical skills; it is examined by a 2-hour written paper containing a mixture of long- and short-answer questions and one extended response.

Paper 2 covers content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills; it is examined by a 2-hour written paper containing a mixture of long- and short-answer questions and one extended response.

Paper 3 covers any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills; it is examined by a 2-hour written paper containing structured question including

questions about practical techniques, a critical analysis of experimental data and an essay.

A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the written papers. This is assessed by teachers and is based on direct observation of pupils' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.



*Mitochondrion*

