

Biology – Specification A or Specification B –Which is right for you?

- **Both** courses lead to an A level in Biology
- **Both** courses include a set of Practical Activities that are certificated at the end of the course.
- **Both** courses are linear A levels that assessed by exams at the end of 2 years.
- **Both** courses are suitable as qualifications for a wide range of courses including medicine, dentistry, nursing or physiotherapy.

Specification A	Specification B
The specification focuses on gaining a thorough understanding of biological knowledge and principles by studying a range of living organisms..	Biological ideas are presented within relevant and interesting settings which help students to understand how biological knowledge can be applied in the world.
Includes topics relating to animals such as mammals, insects and fish.	Focuses more on humans and mammals.
Includes more work on plants.	Less plant-related work.
Micro-organisms are studied in the context of disease, biotechnology and nutrient re-cycling.	Micro-organisms are studied in the context of disease, some aspects of biotechnology and nutrient re-cycling.
There is more focus on a range of environmental issues in a natural environment.	Environmental issues are mainly studied in relation to human activity.
Diseases of both plants, animals and humans are studied. Some work on diabetes and kidney disease.	Diseases are studied in relation to humans and include a range of both infectious and non-infectious diseases.
More work on genetic techniques, cloning and biotechnology such as gene sequencing.	Some work on DNA technologies such as DNA profiling. More work on reproduction and infertility treatments such as IVF.
Cell division including both mitosis and meiosis as a source of genetic variation.	Cell division including both mitosis and meiosis as a source of genetic variation. Chromosome mutations and antenatal care during pregnancy.
Muscle structure and control.	Exercise, muscle and methods of enhancing athletic performance.
Variation, natural selection and adaptation using a range of examples such as the resistance of insects to insecticides.	Variation, natural selection and adaptation using the development of antibiotic resistance and evolution of language as examples.
May suit students interested in environmental issues and working with animals.	May suit students with an interest in health, sport or psychology.

