

BIOLOGY

SPECIFICATION

A Level Edexcel- Spec A (SNAB) Biology 9BNO

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

To develop an investigatory and enquiring approach to the subject with practical applications emphasised. Latest advances and applied concepts of the subject, in such areas as the medical world and in modern Biotechnology, are referred to constantly in order to reflect the rapid expansion of biological knowledge and its applications in a modern society. Students will develop synoptic links and be able to apply a range of Biological concepts in order to explain information and data presented in novel situations.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

A Level

Paper 1: 2 hour examination.

Paper 2: 2 hour examination.

Paper 3: 2 hour examination.

} These are synoptic papers and cover all of the Year 12 and Year 13 content. There is also a written assessment of practical skills.

All examinations are taken in June.

An emphasis is placed on learning by experiment with core practical assignments and a variety of experiments undertaken in Years 12 and 13.

Importance is given to the use of mathematics to manipulate and analyse data in questions which will contribute 10% of the total qualification.

Practical skills will be assessed both through examination and teacher assessment of students' competency. Students will be awarded a pass or fail for their practical skills and this will be reported on their examination certificate.

METHODS OF STUDY

A variety of teaching methods are employed such as group and individual work, class discussion and practical work. Students are expected to complete a significant amount of independent study and are provided with a handbook at the start of the course which outlines the extent of work needed for success.

In addition, educational visits to places of interest are planned to extend knowledge beyond the classroom, including fieldwork in Sale Water Park, lectures at Manchester University and a visit to Chester Zoo.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

Students have the opportunity to deliver Science practical activities to primary school pupils, deliver Crest Award project activities to Year 8 students and support Biology students in lower year groups.

