



BIOLOGY - Specification: OCR A-Level Biology A

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171736-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-biology-a-h420.pdf>

You need to choose **at least one podcast task and one online practical task**.

Immediately after each of these (before you forget), you should complete the Sixth Form Induction Tasks Worksheet.

Podcasts

There is a wide range of excellent Biology related podcasts available in Showbie (www.showbie.com – you can sign up for free if you do not use this already) from the Radio 4 Life scientific series. They are discussion based talks from renowned experts in their particular scientific field. Please listen to at least one (the more the better!), from the choice below and summarise on your pro-forma.

To access these on Showbie, you need the code GUYUT.

- Stephen Pinker - psychology and genetics
- Steve Jones - natural selection
- Uta Firth - psychology and brain disorders
- Richard Dawkins - evolutionary biology
- Ewan Birney - human genome
- Frances Ashcroft -insulin and diabetes



Online practical investigations

You will need to register and sign up to 'The Open Science laboratory' (this is a fantastic resource for A-level scientists!)

<https://learn5.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=2>

Work through all the sections in order, making brief notes as you go along, when finished summarise the practical method, results and conclusions on your pro-forma sheet.

Tasks -

Eating for energy - An investigation into why greater horseshoe bats are so rare in Britain today.

<https://learn5.open.ac.uk/course/format/sciencelab/section.php?name=bats>



OR

What's in water: Freshwater invertebrates - An investigation into river quality using freshwater invertebrates.

<https://learn5.open.ac.uk/course/format/sciencelab/section.php?name=invertebrates>



**** If you are interested in broadening your knowledge and understanding further, or indeed just want to relax and read some really good science/biology related books then check the Biology Reading List (using the same Showbie code).