



BIOLOGY - Specification: OCR A-Level Biology A

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

Dear student, the tasks below are wide ranging and varied. They encompass many of the skills and content required for further Biology study though, essentially they should act as a stimulus to promote your enquiry, evaluation and interpretation skills and broaden your knowledge and understanding base. All of which will help you progress successfully in A-Level studies... enjoy!

To successfully complete you must do at least THREE podcast tasks, BOTH online practical tasks and at least THREE magazine article tasks. You should then consider doing some extra reading and listening to the podcasts, magazine articles or the reading list.

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>



and

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>



READING LIST

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 in the same Showbie Folder.



THE BIOLOGIST



ARCHIVE
thebiologist.rsb.org.uk



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The Biologist launches new website
thebiologist.rsb.org.uk



scoops award for best s...
rsb.org.uk

***** FULL ACCESS to online digital Biologist magazines – including the archive, over sixty publications! *****

TASK –

The Biologist is an excellent publication, pitched directly at 6th form study and beyond! Usually, for some, the subscription cost is prohibitive, however, we have now got a school login for free!

Follow the login instructions below. Look through several magazines and read a range of articles that you find interesting! Then choose three articles, explore the links and study further the write a summary document (about one page of what it is about, what you found particularly interesting, further reading and links to your prior knowledge).

Add the summaries to your induction worksheet.

To log in using your six-digit library card number please follow the steps below.

1. Visit our log in page: <https://exacteditions.com/login>
2. Select the “library card” option in the top right-hand corner.
3. Enter your six-digit code into the “card number” bar and log in.

The six-digit code for Richard Challoner School is 944529.

Explore the full range of magazines from 2010 onwards. (NB - You will notice that there are a range of magazine subscriptions to make use of, including music, history, geography and current affairs. Feel free to peruse and share with family and friends – please restrict sharing to those within the Challoner community!)