CNCS A level Biology

Rationale: Across Year 12 and 13, students will build on KS4 Biology content and use this to underpin new learning of the key concepts within Biology. They will develop a secure knowledge of processes within Biology and develop and master practical and analytical skills related to Require Practical activities and data. Students will develop an appreciation for the way in which key concepts within Biology are interlinked and how processes rely on each other.

A learner in A level Biology will know/ have studied:

Year 12:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13:

- Energy Transfers in and between Organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

A learner in A level Biology will be able to:

- Describe key processes within organisms
- Apply their knowledge to unfamiliar contexts/examples
- Analyse data from tables and graphs
- Evaluate practical methods
- Carry out practical activities with confidence and collect valid result

Year	Term	Outline	Assessment	Home Learning	Key Skills/ End Point
12		1: Biological molecules	Pit stops	Research, practice	Know and understand the content
		A: Monomers and polymers and the reactions that produce them,	1A	questions and revision	covered
		carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, enzymes (inc. RP1), factors affecting	1B		Secure in following a method and able
		enzyme activity, enzyme-controlled rections	2A		to describe, explain and analyse
		B: DNA and RNA, ATP, water, inorganic compounds	2B		results
	1		2C		Use A level vocabulary in exam
		2: Cells			questions
		A: Eukaryotic cells, prokaryotic cells, studying cells, mitosis (inc. RP2)	End of term assessment		
		B: Transport across membranes (inc. RP 3 and 4)	1 X paper using past		
		C: Antigens, the immune response, immunity and vaccines,	exam questions		
		antigenic variation, antibodies, HIV and viruses			
		3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment	Pit stops	Research, practice	Know and understand the content
	2	A: Surface area:volume, gas exchange in insects, fish and plants (inc.	3A	questions and revision	covered
		RP 5) gas exchange in humans, effects of lung disease and			Secure in following a method and able
	_	interpreting data	4A		to describe, explain and analyse
		B: Digestion and absorption, haemoglobin, circulatory system, the	4B		results
		heart, CVD, transport in plants			

		4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms A: DNA, genes and chromosomes, RNA and protein synthesis, transcription and translation, genetic code and nucleic acids B: Meiosis, mutations, genetic diversity, natural selection, effects of selection and investigating selection (inc. RP6)	End of term assessment 1 X paper using past exam questions		Use A level vocabulary in exam questions
	3	3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment B: Digestion and absorption, haemoglobin, circulatory system, the heart, CVD, transport in plants (continued) 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms C: Classification, courtship behaviour, DNA and proteins, gene technologies, investigating variation, biodiversity and agriculture	Pit stops 3B 4C End of term assessment 2 x AS Biology papers	Research, practice questions and revision	Know and understand the content covered Secure in following a method and able to describe, explain and analyse results Use A level vocabulary in exam questions
13	1	5: Energy Transfers in and between Organisms A: Introduction to reactions, light dependent reaction, light independent reaction, limiting factors, photosynthesis experiments (inc. RP7,8), aerobic and anaerobic respiration, glycolysis, Krebs cycle, oxidative phosphorylation, respiration experiments (inc. RP9) B: Energy transfer, farming practices, GPP, NPP, nutrient cycles, fertilisers and eutrophication 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments A: Survival and response, nervous system, tropisms, receptors, control of heart rate (inc. RP 10) B: Neurones and action potentials, synaptic transmission, muscle structure, muscle contraction	Pit stops 5A 5B 6A 6B End of term assessment 1 X paper using past exam questions	Research, practice questions and revision	Know and understand the content covered Secure in following a method and able to describe, explain and analyse results Use A level vocabulary in exam questions
	2	6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments C: Homeostasis, control of blood glucose, diabetes, the kidneys, control of water potential of the blood (inc. RP 11)	Pit stops 6C 7A 7B	Research, practice questions and revision	Know and understand the content covered Secure in following a method and able to describe, explain and analyse results

	7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems	8A		Use A level vocabulary in exam
	A: Genetic terms, monohybrid crosses, dihybrid crosses, multiple			questions
	alleles, codominance, sex linkage, autosomal linkage, epistasis, chi	End of term assessment		
	squared test	1 X paper using past		
	B: Hardy-Weinberg principle, variation and selection, speciation and genetic drift	exam questions		
	8: The control of gene expression			
	A: Mutations and mutagenic agents, cancer, stem cells, regulation of			
	transcription and translation, epigenetic control			
	7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems	Pit stops	Research, practice	Know and understand the content
	C: Ecosystems, variation in populations, investigating populations	7C	questions and revision	covered
	(inc. RP 12), succession, conservation			Secure in following a method and able
2		8B		to describe, explain and analyse
3	8: The control of gene expression			results
	B: Genome projects, making DNA fragments, amplifying DNA	Past paper practice		Use A level vocabulary in exam
	fragments, recombinant DNA technology, gene therapy, gene			questions
	probes and diagnosis, genetic fingerprinting			