



Sturminster Newton High School Sixth Form

Biology Independent Study Guide

Key resources:

You need to download the course **specifications**:

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

Key learning strategies:

Study Skills

There are many skills that will help you to succeed in A level Biology. These are some websites that will help you with this:

The Learning Toolbox website

(<http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/studentst art.htm>)

has lots of tips and strategies to help you study better.

This website has further ideas to help you to **learn faster & smarter**

<http://oedb.org/library/collegebasics/hacking-knowledge>

Additional support:

Tuesday lunchtimes Y12/13 drop in

Enrichment and opportunities:



Beatrice the Biologist

Studland trip to complete the Ecology topics

What to do if you're stuck:

See your teacher, use your textbook, use the internet.

Things to do in study time:

- Complete questions from your Exam Question booklets; check your answers against the mark schemes and highlight areas you lose marks on. Make a list of these for each topic and work through them again so you improve.
- Read over your notes and add additional detail using your textbook
- Make revision notes / flashcards / key points from your lesson notes, highlighting the things you find difficult to remember or understand
- Answer the summary questions in the booklet at the end of each lesson. Check your answers in the back of the book.
- Form a study group or get a study buddy to work with on your Biology. Ask each other questions and revise together
- There are lots of informative tuition videos on Youtube that cover many areas of the A Level syllabus – watch these and make notes

If you still need something to do check out the **Suggested Reading List for A Level Biologists**

Books - Research these at your bookshop or library and select a few to read (* *highly recommended*)

Charles Darwin	The origin of species*
Matt Ridley	Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*
Richard Dawkins	The Selfish Gene; The Blind Watchmaker*
Steve Jones	Y: The Descent of Men; Almost Like a Whale; Coral
James Watson	DNA: The Secret of Life; The Double Helix
Lewis Thomas	The Lives of a Cell; The Medusa and the Snail
Barry Gibb	The Rough Guide to the Brain
Armand Marie Leroi	Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body
David S. Goodsell	The Machinery of Life
Ernst Mayr	This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World
George C. Williams	Plan and Purpose in Nature
Steve Pinker	The Language Instinct; How the Mind Works

Edward O Wilson The Diversity of Life; The Future of Life
Richard Leaky The Origin of Humankind*

Magazines, Newspapers and Journals

New Scientist

Scientific American

Nature

Science

Biological Sciences Review*

British Medical Journal

HuffPost Science

Any scientific articles in newspapers (paper or online)

** These titles will be available in the learning resource centre*

Websites

<http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/index.htm> – An interactive cell biology site

<http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/VL/GG> – A web site showing illustrations of many processes of biotechnology

<http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html> – Explore the genetic code

<http://nature.com> – The site of the scientific journal

<http://royalsociety.org> – Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk> – The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material

<http://www.bmj.com> – The website of the British Medical Journal

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment - The BBC news page for Science and the Environment

[Biology Mad](#)