



ROEDEAN
MOIRA HOUSE

Summer work for Biology
(Biology A level)

Any concerns please email Mr Rich mrich@moirahouse.co.uk

We are studying the **Edexcel Biology B** specification.

The full name of the course is:

‘Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology B (9Bio)’

In preparation for the course please complete the following tasks:



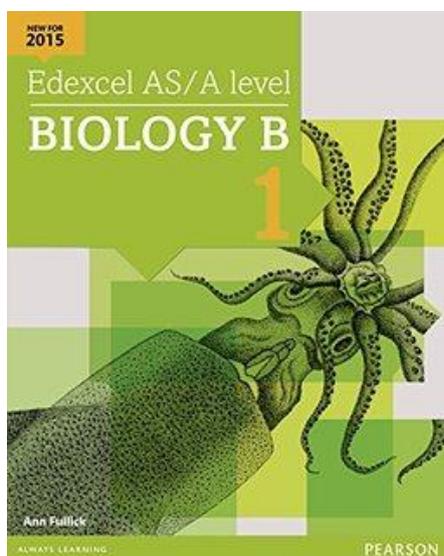
1. Go to the Edexcel website and download and then read the specification. It is on the school’s website. The A level covers all 10 topics. You will be studying the first four topics in Year 12. The link is: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/biology-b-2015.html>

2. Work through the booklet **‘Introduction to A level Biology sheets’** (there is a PDF document of this on the school’s website).

3. Work through the **‘Student Maths Support booklet’** that is on the school’s website. It is also on the Edexcel website. Bring this to your first lesson to hand in for marking. (On the Edexcel website it is actually called **‘Resources for developing mathematical skills: Biology Maths student guide’**. You can find it by going to the link mentioned in point 1 above and then clicking on the ‘Course Materials’ tab followed by the ‘Teaching and learning materials’ tab.)

4. Read the **‘Student Practical Guide Biology B** booklet’ on the school’s website. (On the Edexcel website this is in the ‘Teaching and learning materials’ section already mentioned and is called **‘Resources for developing investigative skills: Biology B practical guide for students’**. You are not expected to do the questions in this booklet.)

You will need to buy a copy of the textbook shown below (**Edexcel AS/A level Biology B 1 by Anne Fullick**). The ISBN number is 978-1-4479-9114-4. This can be ordered from Amazon or another book supplier. We have talked to the publisher about getting a discount but we can’t order enough to get one, so please buy your own ready for the start of term in September.



In order to get a head start with your A level biology, you should also read the first two sections we will be covering (1.1 ‘Chemistry for life’ and 1.2 Biological molecules 1’, from pages 8 to 34)

This will really help when you come to start in September.

In addition, please find below a potential reading list you might like to choose a book from to read over the holiday. This is optional, but highly recommended.

Mr Rich, A level biology teacher

Reading list for A level Biology

If you are going to study A level biology you should be interested in the subject. So, to help develop your interest, we suggest that you read **one** “popular” biology book over the summer. There are hundreds of good popular science books around, so why not browse the science shelves of a good bookshop or library and pick a book that looks interesting? There is a list below of some ideas, but you don't have to stick to these. Have a good summer and see you in September.

Reading list for A level Biology

General

- David Attenborough - Any of the books of his TV series, e.g. Life on Earth, The Life of Mammals etc. There are lots of these.
- A Short History of Nearly Everything. B. Bryson (covers the history of all science! Either read the whole lot or stick to the biology bits).

Genetics

- The language of the genes. S. Jones.
- Y: the Descent of Men. S. Jones.
- Genome. M. Ridley.
- Nature vs Nurture. M. Ridley.

Ecology

- The Diversity of Life. E.O. Wilson.

Evolution

- The Beak of the Finch. J. Weiner.
- Almost Like a Whale. S. Jones.
- The Selfish Gene. R. Dawkins.
- The Blind Watchmaker. R. Dawkins.
- The Greatest Show on Earth. R. Dawkins.
- Wonderful Life. S.J. Gould.

The Brain

- The Brain Story. S. Greenfield.