

Year	Topic	Knowledge	Skills
7	Cells	Animal and plant cells, specialised cells, unicellular organisms and diffusion.	Using a microscope, preparing slides, safely handling chemicals and equipment, drawing labelled diagrams, answering 6 mark questions, using new scientific terminology correctly.
	Structure and Function of Body Systems	Organisation in organisms, gas exchange, breathing, skeleton, joints, muscles.	Practical skills including making a skeleton and working out how mass affects the force needed to make a muscle work, drawing labelled diagrams, answering 6 mark questions, using new scientific terminology correctly.
	Reproduction	Adolescence, internal and external fertilisation, human reproductive systems, fertilisation and implantation, development of the foetus, menstrual cycle, plant reproductive systems, fertilisation and germination, seed dispersal.	This topic provides lots of opportunity for questions and discussion, allowing students to develop respect and responsibility.
8	Health and Lifestyle	Food groups and healthy eating, energy from food, digestive system, enzymes, drugs, alcohol, smoking.	Lots of practical opportunities such as using a Bunsen burner to burn food, food tests and identifying unknowns, answering 6 mark questions, using new scientific terminology correctly and discussion of lifestyle choices and their negative impacts on health. This topic includes some more extended writing tasks to develop literacy skills, graph drawing.
	Ecosystem Processes	Photosynthesis, structure of a leaf, anaerobic and aerobic respiration, chemosynthesis, fertilisers, food webs and chains, bioaccumulation, population changes and ecosystems.	Practical skills revisited including using Bunsen burners and microscopes. New practical techniques of sampling. This topic includes some more extended writing tasks to develop literacy skills and drawing labelled diagrams, graph drawing.
	Adaptation and Inheritance	Predator-prey relationships and interdependence, adaptations, variation, DNA, theories of evolution, natural selection and extinction.	More extended writing/reading on the history of how scientists worked together to discover DNA, lot of opportunities for discussions and evaluations of scientific theories and evidence for and against them whilst also gaining an appreciation that there are different religious views too.

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Cell Structure and Transport	Electron microscopes and general microscopy, eukaryotic and prokaryotic cell structure, specialised cell structures, orders of magnitude, roles of diffusion, osmosis and active transport in the movement of materials within and between cells, adaptations to increase the rate of transport in and out of cells.	Using microscopes, microscope drawings, calculating magnification, drawing scale bars, making slides, converting between units, first examples of GCSE style exam questions, surface area to volume ratio calculations, drawing graphs with negative axis and using lines of best fit to make predictions, literacy exercise to analyse microscopy vocabulary. RP 1 + 3.
Cell Division	The role of DNA, chromosomes, genes in a cell, how cells divide by mitosis, differentiation, cloning, stem cells.	Microscope drawings, first attempt at GCSE 6 mark question – factual recall, analysis and evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of contentious issues.
Enzymes and Digestion	Tissues, organs, organ systems, digestive system, structure of biological molecules, role of enzymes in digestion and factors that affect them, bile and the liver.	Practical complexity increasing to include multiple conditions and repeats, further attempt at 6 mark question (still factual recall), extension activity offers opportunity to use A Level vocabulary in a scaffolded way. RP 4 + 5
Organising Animals and Plants	Blood, double circulatory system, valves, blood vessels, detailed structure of the heart, gas exchange system in mammals and plants, organisation and transpiration in plants.	Observation of heart dissection (provides introduction to sharps handling).
Non-Communicable Disease	Lifestyle factors, causal mechanisms, cancer, smoking and CV disease, lung disease and the effect on foetuses, diet, exercise, type 2 diabetes, alcohol and the effect on the liver, brain and foetuses, carcinogens, stents, artificial hearts, valves and pacemakers, statins,	Analysis of relative sizes of different risks to health, analysis of large data sets (population level health risks and effects), interpreting data in terms of correlation versus causation, calculating BMI, evaluation of various slimming schemes. Analysis and application of knowledge to explain various treatments for cardiovascular disease, evaluation of their benefits and risks
Respiration	The biochemistry of respiration, effects of exercise, anaerobic respiration, metabolism, the role of the liver in oxygen debt.	Balanced symbol equations, planning an experiment, analysis of data collected, cardiac output calculations, efficiency calculations (extension).

	Adaptations and Interdependence	The role of organisms in communities and ecosystems, abiotic and biotic factors, techniques to measure the distribution of living organisms, factors that plants and animals compete for, examples of the adaptations they have to enable this.	Use of mean, mode, median, significant figures, evaluating fieldwork methods, calculating index of diversity (extension). RP 9
10 from 2022	Nervous System	Key elements of control systems, structure and function of nervous system, receptors, co-ordinators, effectors, reflexes, the brain, the eye and focusing, near and short sightedness,	Further practice at 6 mark questions – factual recall with some application, modelling the synapse, evaluation of different methods of measuring reaction times, planning own experimental methods and evaluating reliability and accuracy. RP 7
	Communicable Disease	Causes of ill health, types of pathogen, binary fission, aseptic technique, reducing the spread of disease, examples of disease including measles, HIV, salmonella, gonorrhoea, malaria, immunity and the role of white blood cells, vaccination, drug discovery and testing including penicillin, monoclonal antibodies.	Aseptic technique, interpret data on graphs about health, measure growth of bacteria, analyse exponential graphs, critical review of the testing of new medicines. RP 2
	Reproduction and Inheritance	Sexual and asexual reproduction, meiosis and variation, DNA and the genome, gene expression and protein synthesis, mutations, rules of inheritance and Punnett squares, inheritance of gender, family trees, polydactyly, cystic fibrosis, screening for genetic disorders.	Literacy skills when analysing text about sexual and asexual variation, flower dissection (handling sharps), evaluation of benefits and risks of different methods of embryo screening, drawing Punnett squares.
	Variation and Evolution	Environmental and genetic variation, natural selection, selective breeding, methods of cloning (cuttings, tissue cloning, embryo cloning, adult cell cloning) and uses of cloning. Producing GMO. Ethics of these technologies.	Calculate bacterial population growth, evaluate advantages and disadvantages of various types of cloning, practice 6 mark exam questions (analysis and evaluation).
	Photosynthesis	Describe photosynthesis in terms of reactants, products, limiting factors and	Lines of best fit and gradients, writing risk assessments, 6 mark exam question practice (experimental

		conditions, adaptations of leaves, uses of glucose in plants, examples of plant disease including tobacco mosaic virus, rose black spot, mineral deficiencies, plant defence responses.	methods/results), balanced symbol equations. RP 6
Y10 Rota topic	Genetics and Evolution	The work of Mendel, the theory of evolution by natural selection and the evidence for it, the ideas of Lamarck, Wallace and Darwin, speciation, the formation of and importance of fossils, causes of extinction, antibiotic resistance in bacteria as an example of evolution, classification systems and how they have changed over time.	Evaluation of the strength of evidence to support various theories, literacy skills when analysing text about Darwin, interpretation of complex graphs, considerations of different viewpoints through history.
Y11 from 2023	Hormones	What hormones are, role of pituitary gland, role of hormones in maintaining blood glucose concentration, diabetes, thyroxine, negative feedback, puberty, reproductive hormones and the menstrual cycle, contraception, treating infertility, plant hormones and responses, uses of plant hormones. The use of genetic engineering to make insulin.	Investigation planning, interpreting complex graphs, evaluate different methods of contraception, consider different viewpoints on IVF, literacy skills – using key scientific vocabulary. Evaluate the use of genetic engineering to make insulin. RP 8
	Homeostasis	Regulation of body temperature, removal of waste products, role of kidneys in regulation of blood water and mineral ion content, kidney dialysis and transplants. The use of therapeutic cell cloning as a potential source of kidneys for transplant.	Calculating percentage changes, evaluating models, evaluating different treatments for kidney failure, kidney dissection (sharps handling). Evaluate the use of therapeutic cell cloning.
	Organising an Ecosystem	Feeding relationships and the importance of photosynthesis, predator-prey relationships, decay and the recycling of materials, particularly carbon and water, factors that affect the rate of decomposition, trophic levels	Interpreting complex graphs, experiment planning, balanced symbol equations, percentage change and efficiency calculations. RP 10

		and pyramids of biomass, biomass and energy transfers between trophic levels.	
	Humans and the Environment	Importance of biodiversity, how humans pollute the air, land and water, the causes and effects of deforestation, peat bog destruction and global warming, the impact of environmental changes of the distribution of organisms, actions humans can take to protect biodiversity, food security and factors that affect it, methods to increase the efficiency of food production including intensive versus extensive farming, sustainable fishing, mycoprotein.	Data analysis, evaluation of issues surrounding climate change, evaluate the benefits and risks of different methods of food production and genetic technologies, graph gradient calculations, analysis of issues surrounding and evaluation of solutions to global food production.