

# Presenting our new AS and A level Biology A (SNAB) qualifications

The new Pearson Edexcel Biology A specifications are available for AS and A level. These are **linear** qualifications. All examination papers must be taken in the same series.

The specification is divided into **eight** topics.

The topics for AS Biology are the same as those for the first year of A level, so that the two specifications are **co-teachable**.

AS:  
Available in summer.  
**First assessment  
summer 2016**

A level:  
Available in summer.  
**First assessment  
summer 2017**

## Approaches to teaching AS and A level Biology A (SNAB)

The **Salters-Nuffield (SNAB)** course uses a series of **contexts** and online resources to provide an engaging approach to Biology. It can also be taught using a **concept-based** approach.

We also offer new **AS** and **A level Biology B** qualifications.

## What you like about the Salters-Nuffield (SNAB) approach:

- 'It's a great course!'
- 'We like the core practicals.'
- 'The pre-release article is great for stimulating my students' interest in a wide range of topics.'

## AS

Both papers include assessment of maths and practical skills.

### Paper 1

**50% weighting**



**80 marks**

Covers half the AS content

[Find out more](#)

### Paper 2

**50% weighting**



**80 marks**

Covers half the AS content

[Find out more](#)

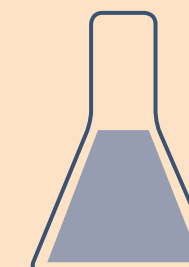
### Note:

AS is a **stand-alone** qualification.

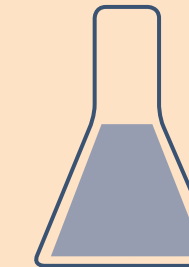
Marks achieved on AS papers do **not** form part of the final A level grade.

## New assessment of practical skills

A level is 100% externally assessed (no coursework)



**Core practicals** appear in the specification content; **practical-based questions** are also in the exams.



Teacher-assessed **practical competency**, based on core practical activities, reported alongside the A level grade.

[Find out more](#)

## A level

All papers include assessment of maths and practical skills.

Paper 3 includes questions on a **pre-release article**.

### Paper 1

**33.3% weighting**



**100 marks**

Covers half the A level topics and some AS content

[Find out more](#)

### Paper 2

**33.3% weighting**



**100 marks**

Covers half the A level topics and some AS content

[Find out more](#)

### Paper 3

**33.3% weighting**



**100 marks**

Covers all AS and A level topics

[Find out more](#)

## Assessing mathematical skills



Makes up **10%** of the assessment and AS at A level.



Maths needs to be assessed at **Level 2** (GCSE Higher tier) **or above**.

# How AS and A level Biology A (Salters-Nuffield) will be assessed



## AS paper 1

- Topic 1: Lifestyle, health and risk
- Topic 2: Genes and health
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

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## AS paper 2

- Topic 3: Voice of the genome
- Topic 4: Biodiversity and natural resources
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

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## A level paper 1

- Topic 5: On the wild side
- Topic 6: Immunity, infection and forensics
- Some AS topics
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

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## A level paper 2

- Topic 7: Run for your life
- Topic 8: Grey matter
- Some AS topics
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

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## A level paper 3

- General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications
- Questions on a pre-release article
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

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## Practical assessment

- There are **18 core practicals** that cover all of the **12 techniques** required for the practical competency measure.
- Knowledge of all core practicals can be tested within exam papers.
- Core practicals form part of the practical competency assessment.

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