

Year 13 Biology

The second year of A-level builds in complexity and demand. The core principles of Year 12 are used to develop understanding at a much greater breadth and increasing levels of complexity. More complex metabolic pathways, more intricate interactions and longer step-by-step processes characterise the learning in Year 13. The regular testing continues, with end-of-topic tests and half-termly progress tests. We spend longer on whole past papers to ready the students for their final exams, including developing essay writing skills which are needed in Paper 3.

Methods of deepening and securing knowledge:	
Spaced practice	Progress tests are spread though the year. They contain material on all of the course up to that point. These tests become more challenging as more of the content can be covered.
Retrieval practice	Most lessons begin with retrieval style questions. Past papers are used in lessons which recall previous learning.

	Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2	Spring term 1	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
Topic(s)	Unit 5 continued - Photosynthesis - Respiration Unit 7 continued - Inheritance - Populations - Evolution		Unit 6 - Stimuli, response - Nervous coordination - Skeletal muscle contraction - Homeostasis Unit 8 - Gene mutations - Gene expression - Using genome projects - Gene technologies		Revision	
Assessment	Progress test 1 5.2 test 7.2 test	5.3 test 8.1 test	Progress test 2 6.1 test	Progress test 3 6.2 test 8.2 test		

Independent learning:
Weekly independent learning tasks are given to students to embed learning in the classroom. Past papers are given increasingly through the year to the point of weekly revision booklets are issued full of past paper questions.

