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2016
*Celebrating
75 years*

Biology

The Biology syllabus consists of three distinct units

Unit One

Biology

The Study of Life (ecology and food science)

Unit Two

The Cell (genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)

Unit Three

The Organism (body systems, plant biology and microbiology).

In this subject an attitude of curiosity and scientific enquiry is both promoted and facilitated. In deepening their understanding of biological facts and principles, students are further enabled to appreciate the nature and diversity of living organisms. In creating an awareness of the application of knowledge of biology to modern society students are encouraged to make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues.

How is this subject examined?

The course is currently examined by means of a three hour written paper at both higher and ordinary level. There are 22 mandatory practical activities which are examinable as part of the written paper. As such, therefore, there is no practical element to the examination. A laboratory record of these activities has to be kept and available for inspection by The Department of Education and Skills. An ecology portfolio based on fieldwork must also to be completed.

Additional information

Students who enjoyed Science in the Junior Certificate might wish to consider studying Biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in much greater detail. It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Science. A considerable amount of commitment and ongoing study is necessary to succeed in this subject. Students must be dedicated to learning and applying a wide range of new vocabulary as it relates specifically to biology and science in general. The content of modern biology is increasingly biochemical. Each student should have an aptitude and interest for both theory and laboratory work.