



A level biology taster session

The tasks in this document are designed to increase your understanding of the A level biology course that we run at Saint Augustine's Catholic high school. You should complete each task in preparation for the taster session on the 1st March and be prepared to share your answers and findings with the group.

Task 1- What does this course cover?

1. Go to Google and type in 'AQA A level Biology specification'
2. List the main topics covered in this A level. Which of these sounds the most interesting to you and why?
3. List the 12 required practicals in this A level. Which of these sounds the most interesting to you and why?

Task 2- Where can this course take me?

1. Follow this link <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/subjects> use the website to select some possible A-level choices including Biology, what possible degree courses does it suggest? Which sound inspiring to you?
2. Alternatively, if you already have an idea of a degree course you'd like to study, use this link <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees> to find out what A-level courses are advised. Is Biology a required or recommended A-level for this course?
3. Now follow this link <https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>. Navigate the UCAS page to explore the possible university courses recommended.
4. Make a list of the top 5 courses that spark your interest, their entry requirements and why this interested you. Be prepared to share these in the session.

Task 3- What is a typical lesson in A level biology like?

In AS Biology, one of the 4 topics covered is **organisms exchange substances with their environment**. As part of this topic we cover gas exchange in mammals, insects and fish. One of the key points ventilation system that we observe in fish gills.

Watch the video below which shows a fish dissection to remove the gills. This is required practical 5.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfiJIY2ffkl>

Make notes on the names of the key structures from the dissection- be prepared to share your findings with the group.

In the session we will look at how the fish gills are adapted to allow efficient gas exchange.