

**A Level Biology**

**Lecturers**  
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**Activity 1 -** Medicines from the Environment

Wild plants have been used in medicines for thousands of years. The earliest pharmacists were called apothecaries and herbalists. Choose **six** plants which have given us sources of valuable medicines or therapeutic drugs.

Produce a brief fact sheet for each medicine plant, please include an image of the plant, indicate its scientific name, the products obtained and what treatment they provide, and if you can find out how they work or anything else that you find interesting about it.

**Activity 2 -** Presenting the Data

Using the same research, and data, you have chosen to create your factsheets, create a PowerPoint presentation suitable to share with your peers via an online meeting such as Microsoft Teams.

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**Frequently asked questions**

**How is the subject assessed?**A Level Biology is assessed via three exams. Throughout the course, we thoroughly prepare you for the exams with skills development, exemplar answers and model practice papers and questions.

**Is there a lot of factual information to learn?**Biology A Level does involve the study of a broad foundation in the specification, and it is more extensive than some other science subjects.

The assumption is that students will already have been given the opportunity to study biology at GCSE and will be developing in the subject from the position of strong foundation of prior knowledge, therefore the content is extension as well as foundation.

**Do I need to do A Level Biology to study health and medical subjects such as physiotherapy or nursing at university?**The short answer is yes, it is highly recommended, it is not always a requirement, but those cases would be exceptionally rare. You are also at an advantage if you go on to study medically related science at university, having studied it at A Level, as you will acquire substantial foundation understanding which will support your future study.

**What trips/guest speakers are there?**In biology, there are several extra-curricular opportunities, in recent years we have provided many international residentials to Iceland, Italy and Ireland. In the future, we plan to include such venues as the Eden Project, Bristol Zoological gardens, Bristol Museum.

**What other subjects does A Level Biology go with?**A Level Biology is a versatile science subject undertaken by students with highly diverse interests from Medicine to Fine Art. It complements study of many other areas, science students typically tend to study biology alongside subjects such as chemistry, or physics but it can be very successful for most students, no matter what their other subjects are.

**Recommended Browsing**

Find general biology at sites such as:

* <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover.html>
* <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do>
* <https://www.rsb.org.uk/education/teaching-resources>

Some good starting places for your research task include:

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicinal_plants>
* <https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/education-learning/trails/medicines/>
* <https://thesunlightexperiment.com/blog/2018/6/7/9-famous-examples-of-drugs-that-came-from-plants>
* <https://www.thoughtco.com/drugs-and-medicine-made-from-plants-608413>
* <https://www.ddw-online.com/plants-as-a-source-of-new-medicines-1045-200008/>
* <https://www.docunlock.org/youtube/medicines-derived-from-plants>