

Get off to a 'Flying Start' in **Biology - A Level**

Welcome to Flying Start with North Devon College.

We hope that you are excited to join us at North Devon College. We want to help you to focus on your skills for your course with us and so below you will find questions to consider, tasks to complete and some background research to undertake before enrolment.

Please read the instructions and have a go at the activities.

If you get stuck, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section at the end of this document for help.

A quick hello and introduction to the course

Click on this link to watch the [Biology video](#)

Biology is a very exciting A Level with much relevance to the world around us. We are looking forward to you joining us and have some activities to start learning about the importance of water in Biology. We would also like to know more about you and for you to research some potential careers which may enthuse you about the many possibilities in your future beyond college.

To get you started...

The following 3 tasks will help develop independent working skills which will be important as you make the transition from GCSE to A level study. They will also guide you through some of the additional skills which are important for success and help you to find out about careers.

Task 1:

Introduction to the science

1. Download the [AQA specification](#) and save it in a "Biology" folder – you will refer to it regularly during your course. It tells you the content covered in AS Biology.
2. For this Flying Start focus on page 20, 3.1.7 Water.

Task 2:

Developing study skills (making useful notes)

One of the important skills as you start College is being able to make some clear and well set out notes on material you have read.

- Set a full page out using the format below to support your note taking.
- Use Seneca as a learning tool to develop your understanding of water at an AS Level standard. The sections you need to view are [1.7.1 Structure and function of water](#) and [1.7.2 A-A* \(AO3/4\) - Water](#).
- Record this information as notes (don't just copy it out).

The importance of water for life both as a habitat and as a substance within the body

Key Words: e.g polar.etc	Notes: Write your notes here
Summary: summarise the key points from your notes with bullet points here	

Consolidating

You may also want to write down questions of things you are unsure about or would like to know more about so that you can discuss them in class in September.

There are additional extension articles at the end if you want to develop your knowledge further.

Task 3

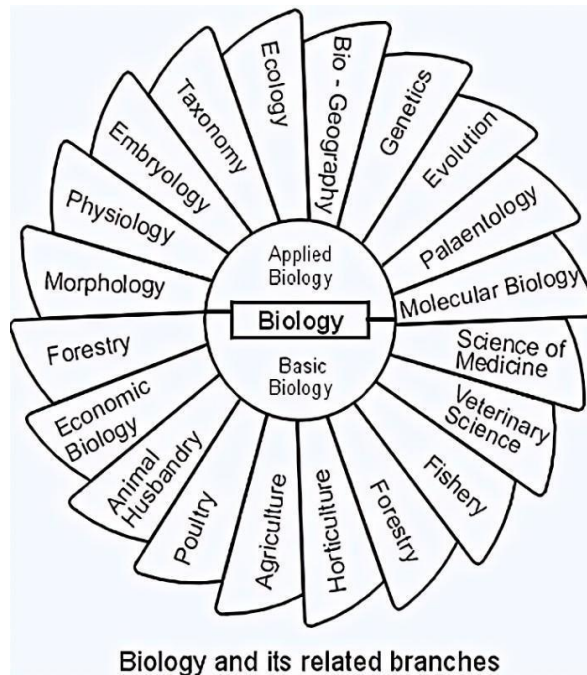
Having a goal in mind is really important as you enter this stage in your education. It may be something which interests you at the moment, this can change and that is absolutely fine. Your aspirations may change as you gain more experiences!

It is good to have a vision as it motivates you into working that little bit harder and give a purpose to what you are doing.

As an A level student, you have chosen Biology for at least one of these reasons

- a) You love Biology and want to find out more about it – can you share what bits of Biology have interested you the most so far?
- b) You think studying Biology with your other A levels as it will help you to develop useful skills which will help you elsewhere– what skills do you think you will gain as you study Biology?
- c) You are interested in following a career with links to Biology – what career are you interested in?

Below is a diagram showing the variety of jobs with connections to Biology:



Researching careers in Biology

To give you some ideas you could use this [link](#) to get started.

Questions to guide you as you complete your research:

- What career are you interested in finding out more about?
- What inspires you about doing this as a job?
- Are there different ways of entering this career – if so, what are they, describe what you must do?
- Other than qualifications, what other skills do you think you need to succeed in this job?
- What things do you think might be difficult for you about getting into this career?

For those who want a bit more...

The following contains some links to some useful websites/articles connected to this work.

Further reading:

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/lab-rat/httpblogsscientificamericancomlab-rat20110802hydrogen-bonds-why-life-needs-water/>

This is why water is so important in Biology:

<https://astrobiology.nasa.gov/news/microbes-could-survive-thin-air-of-mars/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Will this work be marked and when is it due?

A: This work may not be formally marked but will be discussed during your first classes with us in September. Just bring along what you have completed to your first timetabled sessions.

Q: I am not sure if I have the answers right, what should I do?

A: Don't worry, just have a go at getting something down and bring it along to the lesson where we can talk it through. There is no need to get anxious about the tasks, we are not expecting you to know everything before you arrive but are interested in your ideas and what you have found easy or difficult as it helps us support you right from the beginning.

Q: Do I have to do it?

A: Flying Start is not compulsory, but many students find it useful for getting them used to thinking about subjects at the next level. Early classroom sessions will also reflect on some of the Flying Start activities.