

When studying **Biology**, it is important that you not only attend all your lessons and complete all your homework, but that you are also doing independent study. We would recommend that you are spending at least 5 hours a week on your Biology independent study. For this study to be of maximum benefit it is important that you do a range of different activities, you should be completing some from each of the boxes below. In addition, to stretch yourself beyond the **Biology** curriculum, look for ideas in the super-curricular box.

Content

*One important part of independent study is making sure you have learnt all the content. Here is a list of suggested activities to help you learn the **Biology** content.*

- ✓ *Creating Quizlets or flashcards*
- ✓ *Testing yourself using Quizlet*
- ✓ *Creating mind maps*
- ✓ *Creating summary sheets*
- ✓ *Test yourself: use “look, cover, write, check” for definitions and processes.*
- ✓ *Get someone else to test you (using your flash cards, class notes or the textbook)*
- ✓ *Making/remaking class notes- checking with the specification.*
- ✓ *Highlighting/ colour coding your notes*
- ✓ *Using a revision wall to display your learning.*
- ✓ *Reading through class notes*
- ✓ *Using resources on the Class Notebook or Catalogue Link: [Biology](#)*
- ✓ *Reading course textbooks and summarizing what you’ve read.*
- ✓ *Completing questions in the textbook*

Skills

Another important part of independent study is developing the skills to be able to succeed in the exams. Below are some suggestions to help you develop those skills:

- ✓ *Writing exam answers under timed conditions*
- ✓ *Writing out answers to exam questions using your notes/textbook (not timed). A link to past papers and mark schemes is here: <https://www.studymind.co.uk/resource/ocr-a-level-biology/>*
- ✓ *Reading model answers*
- ✓ *Buying one of the revision workbooks and completing the exam practice questions*

Feedback

The final important part of independent study is getting and using feedback. Feedback allows you to understand what you need to do differently to improve your answers. Below are some ideas about how you can use feedback:

- ✓ *Marking your own work using a mark scheme, learn the mark-scheme language.*
- ✓ *Studying mark schemes or examiners’ reports*
- ✓ *Working with other students in groups/pairs*
- ✓ *Comparing model answers against your own work*
- ✓ *Creating your own exam questions*
- ✓ *Handing in extra exam work for marking*
- ✓ *One to one discussion with your teachers*

Super-curricular Biology

*If you are considering studying **Biology** or a related subject at university, or are really interested in the subject, then you could complete some super-curricular activities. These are things which go beyond the curriculum and include tasks such as watching relevant documentaries, listening to **Biology** podcasts, reading relevant journal articles and relevant books.*

Read Biological Sciences Review Magazine Archive articles – see email from Mrs Spargo 12/9/23

For up to date ideas look at the Biology Padlet [CSF super-curricular: Biology A-level \(padlet.com\)](#)