

Welcome to A Level Biology!

You've probably been wondering how studying A Levels will compare to your previous studies so we have put together a quick guide and some activities to help you get ready for starting college.



A Level Biology

Serving the community through education and training

Preparation for college



Pens

Pencils

Eraser and Sharpener

Ruler

Lever Arch Folder

Calculator

Highlighters

Notepad

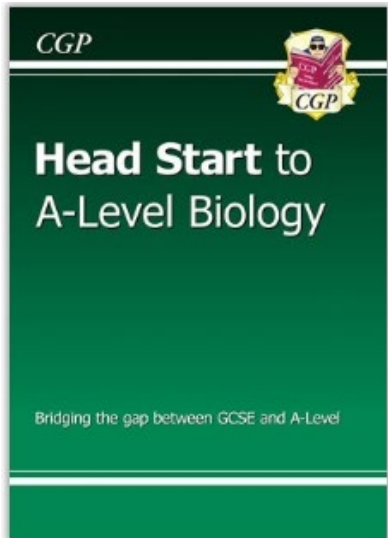
What equipment do I need?

And the reading lists?

The specification we follow for Biology is AQA.

Click on each image to be directed to the website for the relevant information

(You may wish to look at online shops also if you want you purchase books or resources. Sometimes you can find them cheaper)



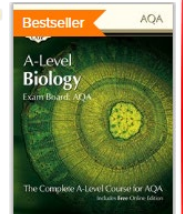
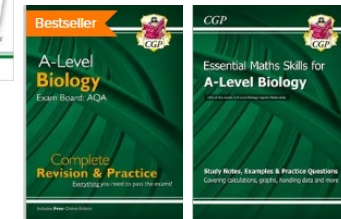
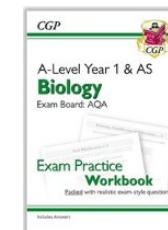
Click the image above to be directed to the CGP website, where you can find the above textbook: Head Start to A-Level Biology



Click the image above to be directed to the exam board specification



Click the image above to be directed to education umbrella website, which contains lots of revision guides, textbooks and other helpful material

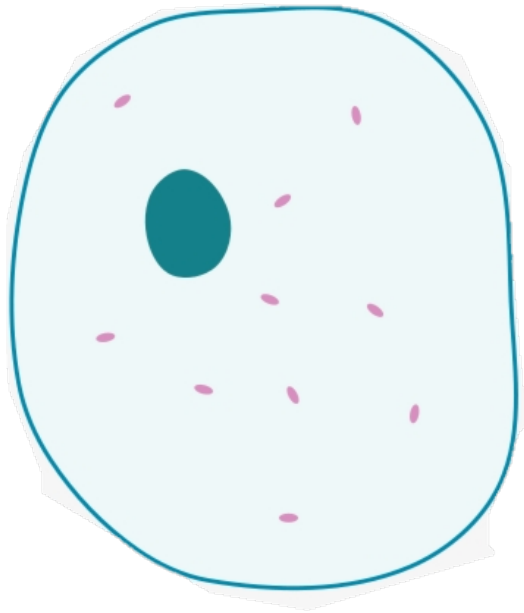


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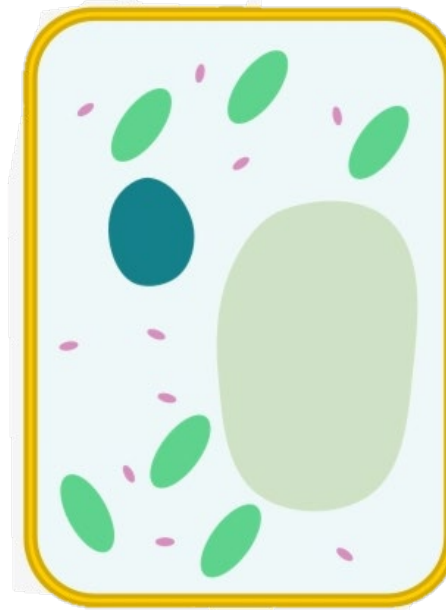
What do you know from GCSE?

Can you draw a simple animal or plant cell?

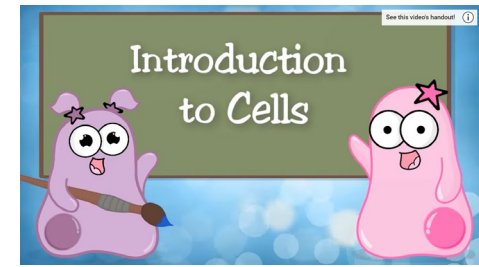
If so it would most likely look like the cells below.....



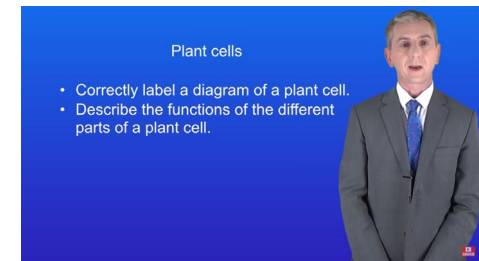
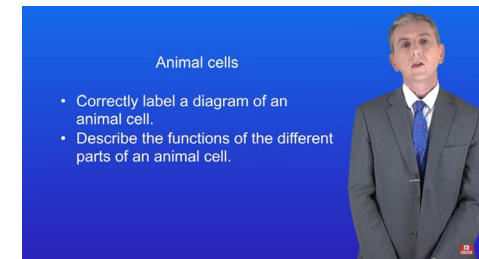
Can you label the simple components of an animal cell?



Can you label the simple components of a plant cell?



You may have watched videos like the one above or those below during high school, to help learn basic cell organelles. Click on each for a reminder and label the cells to the left



What do you know from GCSE?

If you labelled the cells correctly, you should have come up with answers such as these:

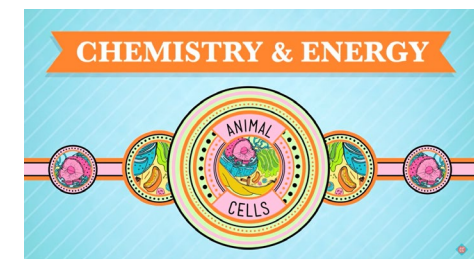
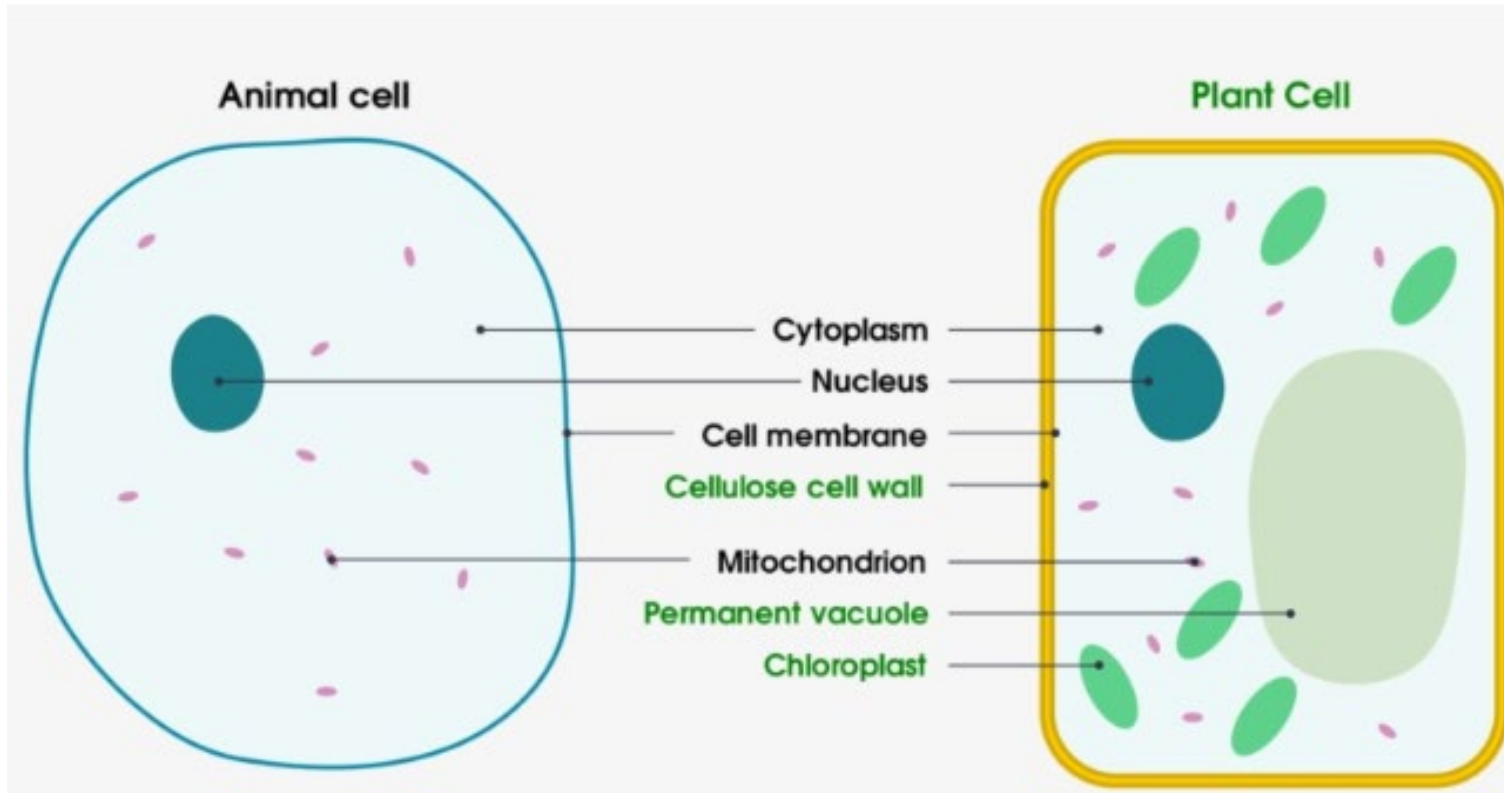


A-Level Biology

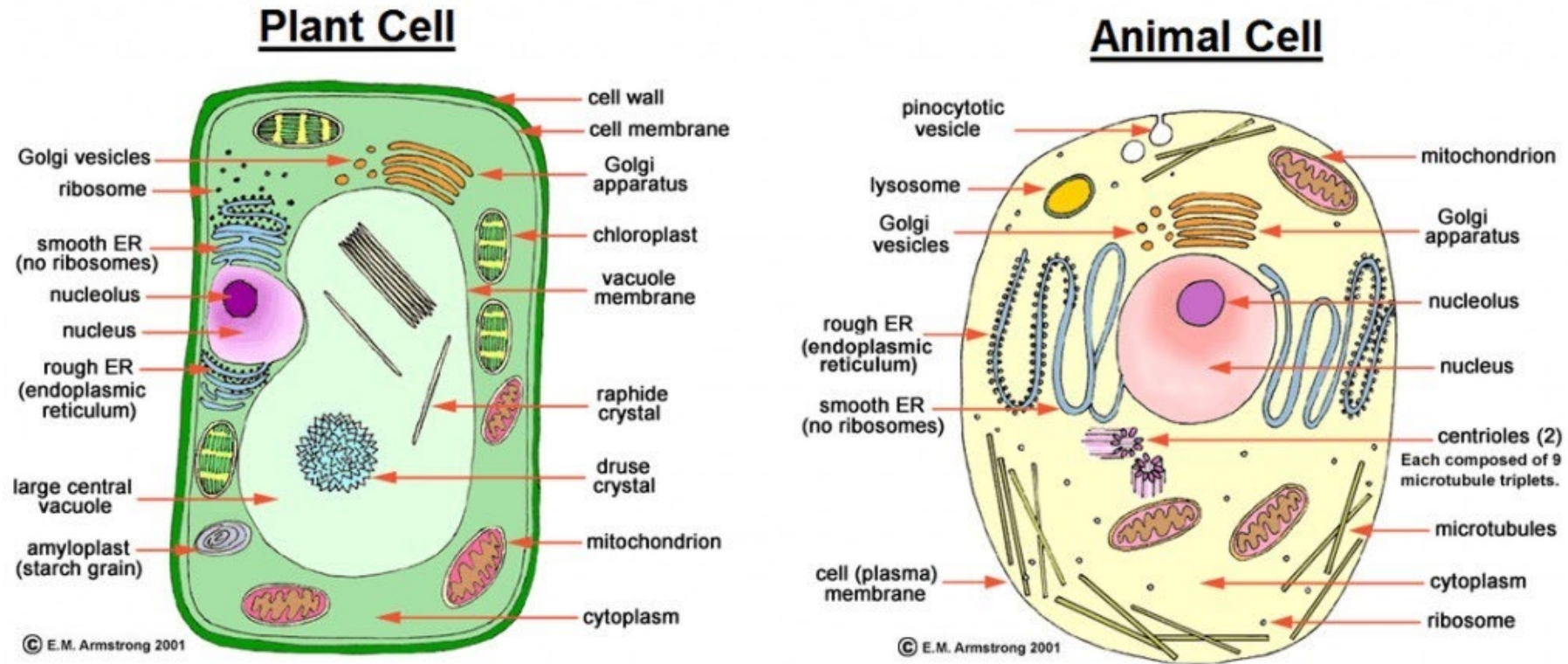
Cells:
Cell Organelles



Watch the videos above and below. Then draw and label these new organelles onto your original diagram. Above is exam board specific and very informative. Below, are a little more 'fun' with correct information also

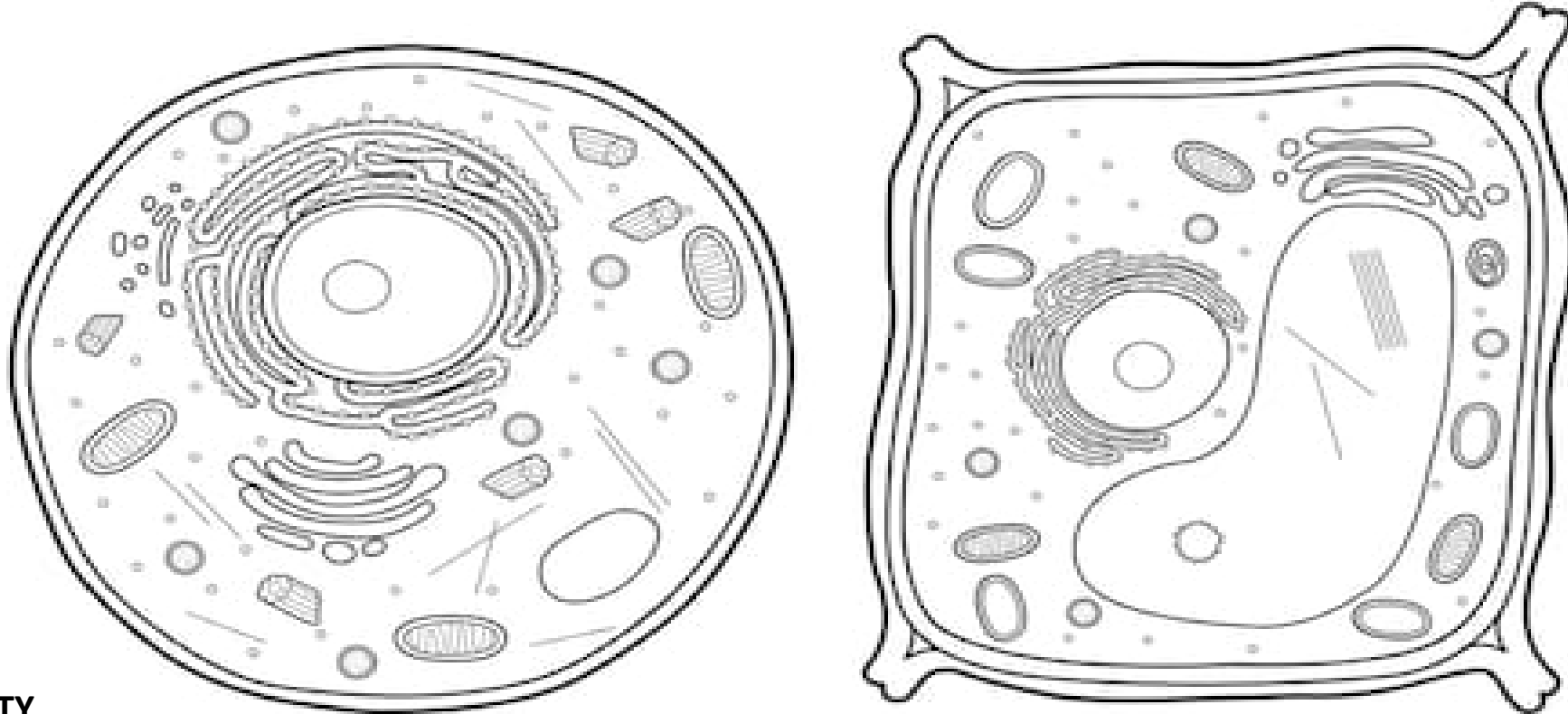


In A Level Biology



For many topics, we will take what you have learnt in GCSE, consolidate that theory and then build on it with more detail. In this topic for example, you learn about many more organelles in plant and animal cells, as well as their functions.

Have a go for fun – from memory.
How many of these organelles can you label?



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Can you describe their function also?

Useful links and videos

There are lots of useful videos on YouTube to help consolidate your learning in A Level Biology. Below are just some of the YouTube users who regularly upload AQA specific Biology videos:



Study Mind
1.2K subscribers



Khan Academy
5.61M subscribers



SnapRevise
48.5K subscribers



Mr Pollock
30.5K subscribers

We often use videos in A Level Biology to ‘flip learning’.

If you have a YouTube account, it may be useful to subscribe to their pages in advance, so you can watch the relevant videos prior to learning the new content

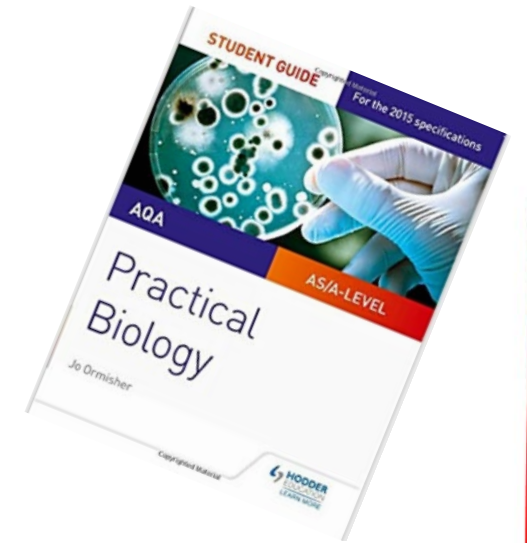
The Practical Stuff

Alongside your A Level in Biology, you will also achieve a practical qualification called the CPAC

(Common Practical Assessment Criteria).

Practical activities help learners to understand the ‘big ideas’ of science. Over the two years of A Level Biology study, you will master the investigative and practical skills that underpin the development of science.

All the practical activities are taught alongside the theory, so don’t worry. You don’t need any additional equipment. Just an eagerness and enthusiasm to take part.



So, what can you do in preparation for college?

In the first year of Biology, you will learn about;

1. Biological molecules
Carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, food tests.
Enzymes
DNA, RNA, Water, etc
2. Cells
Animal and plant cells (organelles),
bacteria, viruses.
Microscopes and Mitosis
Digestion and Immunity
3. Exchange and transport systems
Gas exchange in insects, fish and mammals.
The heart and circulatory system.
Plant transport – transpiration and
translocation
4. Genetic diversity
The role of DNA. Protein synthesis.
Classification and Taxonomy.
Biodiversity

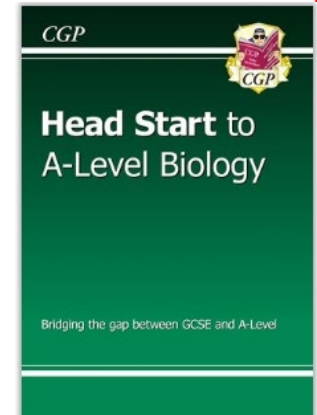
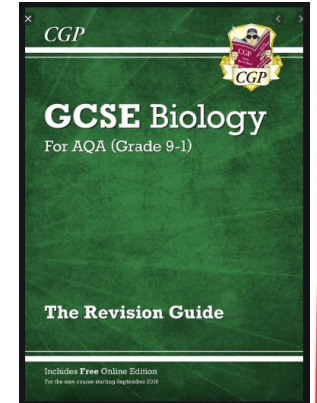
Read ahead. Gain confidence. Enjoy Biology

Make sure you are confident coming into your A Levels with the content learnt during your GCSE years.

A Level Biology builds on this content, so a solid understanding is vital to succeed. Many of the topics you will have already learnt. We just add to it in more detail.

Use your high school notes and read ahead.
You may also wish to invest in a GCSE revision guide or the Head Start to A Level guide to help with this.

Good Luck



Click me to access the
Bury College Website



Click me to access the
Biology Prospectus page

Achieve

Succeed

Progress