

CHALLENGING OCR A LEVEL ABLE BIOLOGISTS TO REACH THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL

CODE 7630

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This revised course is for all teachers of OCR A level Biology looking to develop new approaches for extending their very able students to achieve an A* at A level and succeed at university.

The course, led by a highly experienced A level Biology teacher who regularly has students looking to read Biology at Russell Group Universities, will explore proven strategies to challenge the most able students in OCR A level Biology. Delegates will take away a range of approaches, ideas, and new thinking to impact their pupils' learning and ensuring top level examination results in OCR A level Biology.

PROGRAMME

TIME

Bridging the gap to an A/A*

10.00 – 10.30am

- Consideration of what determines A/A* learners, including feedback from the 2018 exams
- What skills are needed to access the higher grades?

Higher Order Questioning

10.30 – 11.45am

- Problem solving and mathematical contexts
- Approaches to improve lateral thinking
- Strategies for approaching the mathematical content
- Data analysis and interpretation

Discussion: coffee break

11.45 – 12.00pm

Interconnections: a whole Biology Approach

12.00 – 1.00pm

- Lessons learnt from 2019– where do students lose marks on the A/A* level? Including example answers
- Teaching key areas for high performance: why do some reactions 'go' and others don't?

Lunch and informal discussion

1.00 – 2.00pm

Challenging learners thought processes

2.00 – 2.30pm

- Thought provoking examples to challenge learners' understanding
- Ways to encourage students through argument to produce A/A* thinking
- Ensuring able students are thinking and responding at a high level throughout the course – strategies and teaching ideas

Extending A/A* students

2.30 – 3.00pm

- Lesson activities and approaches
- Developing high level exam skills
- Extra-curricular activities to promote A/A* level thinking
- Impact in your classroom – review resources for immediate use with high ability learners

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.10pm

Preparing able students for Oxbridge and Medical interviews

3.10 – 3.40pm

- Advising high ability students on their application: preparation and the personal statement
- What to comment on in your reference
- Mock interviews and assisting in interview preparation

LOCATION/DATE

London

Thursday 12 November 2020

COURSE LEADER

John Medicott has taught for 25 years and has trained teachers for over 15 years where he is regularly graded as "outstanding" by delegates on their evaluation forms. This year he has chaired National Conferences in School Leadership & Teaching and Learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers of OCR Biology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop your teaching approaches to extend your more able students
- Challenge your students with problem solving, modelling and questioning to stretch pupils' thinking process
- Increase your understanding of how to integrate areas of Biology into teaching a 'whole biology approach'.
- Sample answer at OCR Grades A and A* will be discussed and marked.
- Materials will be provided that will allow teachers to cover the content effectively in innovative and student-friendly ways that push the highest ability students