

## A-Level Year 12 Biology Summer Work

In A-Level Biology you will be expected to deal with and understand a lot of new concepts, and you will also need to develop a lot of your skills from GCSE Science and Mathematics: observational skills, lateral thinking, and an ability to hypothesize and to think through scientific problems. Above all, you need to have a genuine interest in the science behind Biology. If the thought of this holiday work seems tedious, Biology A-Level may not be the most appropriate choice for you.

Kent has a number of interesting places to visit which will expose you to the wider world of biology. For your summer work you need to go to one of these places, and investigate an object or organism. This will then form the basis for a piece of research.

In your chosen place you must find an object or organism that you find interesting. You should take a selfie with your chosen object and make notes about the areas of biology you could potentially investigate.

Suggested places to visit in Kent.

- 1) Down House - Home of Charles Darwin, Luxted Road, Downe, Kent, BR6 7JT
- 2) Wildwood Trust, Herne Common, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7LQ
- 3) Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve and Jeffery Harrison Visitor Centre Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3DH
- 4) Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park, Park Lane, Birchington, Kent, CT7 0BH

However, do feel free to choose a place further afield for your study. Other options include the 'big' London museums.

- 1) The Science Museum, Exhibition Rd, Kensington, London SW7 2DD
- 2) The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD
- 3) The British Museum, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

There are also a number of smaller, specialised museums in and around London. These might be especially interesting for those wishing to study medicine or dentistry in the future. Please check opening times before going though.

- 1) The Gordon Museum of Pathology, Hodgkin Building, Guy's Campus, King's College London, London, SE1 1UL
- 2) Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum. St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY
- 3) Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE
- 4) The Museum of Military Medicine, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, GU12 5RQ
- 5) Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3AZ

On return from your visit with your selfie, the next task is to do some research about an area of biology that is relevant to the object or organism. For example if you chose the “Wild Boar” in Wildwood you may wish to find out about reintroduction programmes, or if you chose the “pre-historic animal skeleton” at the Powell-Cotton Museum, you may wish to research the decomposition process in organisms. You will need information from at least 3 or more sources. They can be web-based or non web-based (i.e. leaflets, magazines, newspapers etc)

You are now ready to produce your written report. We are looking for you to be able to communicate clearly, concisely and logically with appropriate use of visuals. Your report should be well set out with correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. There should be good use of technical language.

**The report must contain:**

- 1) A title**
- 2) Your selfie with your chosen object or organism**
- 3) Why you think that object or organism is interesting.**
- 4) A summary of the research you carried out, including quotes from references if relevant. You may include other diagrams here.**
- 5) A list to identify the sources you used i.e. author and date or full web address and date accessed for 3 or more references that you used for your research.**

You will be asked to give a brief overview of your report in the second Biology lesson in September; it should be easily explained to your class in around 1-2 minutes. You must hand in your written report on the same day.

The document you are reading is 660 words long. Your written report should be between 600 and 900 words long.