



SWGS KS5 READING LIST: BIOLOGY

The purpose of this reading list is to encourage students to read, enjoy and learn beyond the taught curriculum. You can use the resources here to support and to enrich your learning.

Essential

A Level Biology for OCR A by Anne Fullick, Jo Locke, Paul Bircher

You will be issued with a copy of the textbook. Reading the relevant chapters as you study new topics is essential. Relevant pages are indicated on your learning overview.

Extension

Biology reading/watching/listening list – there are many more, these are ideas to get you started:

Books:

David Attenborough	Has written at least 30 books – read any/all of them!
Jean-Dominique Bauby	The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
Bill Bryson	A Short History of Nearly Everything
Nessa Carey	• Junk DNA: A Journey Through the dark Matter of the Genome • The Epigenetics Revolution
Daniel Chamovitz	What A Plant Knows
Paul Colinvaux	Why big fierce animals are rare
Brian Cox	• Wonders of Life • Human Universe
Francis Crick	Nature Via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human
Charles Darwin	On The Origin Of Species
Richard Dawkins	• The Selfish Gene • The Blind Watchmaker • Unweaving the Rainbow • Climbing Mount Improbable • The Ancestor's Tale
Jared Diamond	• The Third Chimpanzee • Guns, Germs, and Steel • Collapse, The World Until Yesterday • Upheaval
Richard Fortey	• Life, an unauthorised biography • Trilobite, witness to evolution
Barry Gibb	The Rough Guide to the Brain (Rough Guides Reference Titles)
Ben Goldacre	• Bad Science • Bad Pharma
David S. Goodsell	The Machinery of Life
Yuval Noah Harari	Sapiens A Brief History of Humankind
Lyanda Lynn Haupt	Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness
Ivan Illich	• Limits to Medicine • Medical Nemesis, the expropriation of health

Steve Jones	• Y: The Descent of Men • In the Blood: God, Genes and Destiny • Almost Like a Whale: The 'Origin of Species' Updated • The Language of the genes
Olivia Judson	Dr Tatiana's Sex Advice to all Creation
Nick Lane	Power, sex and suicide
Richard Leaky	The Origin of Humankind
Armand Marie Leroi	Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body
Ernst Mayr	This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World
George Monbiot	Rewilding
Wendy Moore	The knife man
Steve Pinker	The Language Instinct
Matt Ridley	• Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters • The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature • The Language of Genes
Alice Roberts	• The Incredible Human journey • The Incredible Unlikeliness of Being Human • Evolution the Human Story
Steven Rose	Chemistry of life
Oliver Sachs	The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat
Sonia Shah	Pandemic
Rebecca Skloot	The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks
Susan Sontag	Illness as Metaphor
Lewis Thomas	• The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher. • The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher
James Watson	• DNA: The Secret of Life • The Double Helix: Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA
Christie Wilcox	Venomous: how Earth's deadliest creatures mastered biochemistry
George C. Williams	Plan and Purpose in Nature
Edward O Wilson	The Diversity of Life

Consider becoming a member of the Royal Society of Biology. The student grade membership is called 'Bionet' and includes a subscription to the e-magazine 'The Biologist' (costs £5 per year).
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/membership/individual-membership/bionet>

Magazines, newspapers and journals – some are available in hard copy in the LRC, as well as virtual (some require subscription):

- Biological Sciences Review [Biological Sciences Review - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- Scientific American [Scientific American: Science News, Expert Analysis, Health Research - Scientific American](#)
- Science [Science | AAAS](#)
- British Medical journal [Discover the latest clinical knowledge and opinion | BMJ Journals](#)
- New Scientist <http://www.newscientist.com/>
- Nature <http://www.nature.com/index.html>
- Most major newspapers have a weekly scientific section:
(e.g. Guardian on Wednesday) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science>
- Catalyst [Catalyst Magazine - Issue 43 \(catalyst-magazine.org\)](#)
- Planet Earth <http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/>

Websites:

<http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/index.htm> An interactive cell biology site

<http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html> Explore the genetic code

<http://nobelprize.org> Details of the history of the best scientific discoveries

<http://royalsociety.org> Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk> The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment The BBC news page for Science and the Environment

[Big Picture | STEM](#) A magazine style website covering key areas of interest to A level Biologists

Eventbrite online lectures (has a broad search result) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/free-events/biology/?page=1>

TED Talks [7 talks to make you love science | TED Talks](#)

BBC News [Health - BBC News](#)

Podcasts:

<https://www.newscientist.com/podcasts/>

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/keywords/biology>

<https://soundcloud.com/guardianscienceweekly>

https://blog.feedspot.com/environmental_podcasts/

Citizen Science:

Count penguins (the organisers are moving institution but you can still get involved):

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/penguintom79/penguin-watch>

Count butterflies: <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

Environmental monitoring: <https://earthchallenge2020.earthday.org/>

Transcribing climate data: <https://www.oldweather.org/>

Webcams:

The digital alternative to sitting in a hide

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/livestreams-wildlife/> (not all the links still livestream, but many do, so it's worth persisting)

<https://www.birdfood.co.uk/webcams>

People/sites to find and follow on X (twitter), Instagram etc:

DrJengunter (gynaecologist on a mission)

IFLscience (for the latest science news with humour)

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki (wacky Australian)

Ernstedzard (researcher into alternative medicine from uni of Exeter)

Doctor.brein (neuroscientist)

Microbialecolgy (Hunter Hines, posts lots of videos of tiny things taken down a microscope)