

# Biology A Level Course Reading List

Obviously it is not expected that you read everything on this list - I can guarantee none of the teachers will have! However, this list gives you a good range of scientists and topics that you can choose from, and a range of resources that will help you to prepare for A level Biology but also support you throughout the course and beyond. Some of the magazines are available in school outside the prep room.

## Magazines, Newspapers and journals

New Scientist  
Scientific American  
Nature  
Science  
Biological Sciences Review  
The Biologist  
British Medical Journal  
Any scientific articles in newspapers (e.g. the Guardian on Wednesday)

## Books

Richard Dawkins:

The Selfish Gene  
The Blind Watchmaker.  
Unweaving the Rainbow  
Climbing Mount Improbable  
The Ancestor's Tale

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

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  
Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code  
Nature Via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human

James Watson:

DNA: The Secret of Life  
The Double Helix: Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA

Lewis Thomas:

The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher

The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher

Barry Gibb:

The Rough Guide to the Brain (Rough Guides Reference Titles)

Charles Darwin:

The origin of species

Armand Marie Leroi:

Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body

David S. Goodsell:

The Machinery of Life

Ernst Mayr:

This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World

George C. Williams:

Plan and Purpose in Nature

Steve Pinker:

The Language Instinct

Edward O Wilson:

The Diversity of Life

Richard Leaky:

The Origin of Humankind

Bill Bryson:

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Oliver Sachs:

The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat

Daniel Chamovitz:

What A Plant Knows

## **Websites**

1. <http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/index.htm> – An interactive cell biology site
2. <http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/VL/GG> – A web site showing illustrations of many processes of biotechnology
3. <http://www.uq.oz.au/nanoworld> – Visit the world of electron-microscopy

4. <http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html> – Explore the genetic code
5. <http://nobelprize.org> – Details of the history of the best scientific discoveries
6. <http://nature.com> – The site of the scientific journal
7. <http://royalsociety.org> – Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments
8. <http://www.nhm.ac.uk> – The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material
9. <http://www.bmj.com> – The website of the British Medical Journal
10. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science\\_and\\_environment](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment) - The BBC news page for Science and the Environment