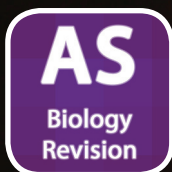




# BIOLOGY

AS/A2 Teacher Days Brochure - Summer / Autumn 2012



[www.teachersfirst.org.uk](http://www.teachersfirst.org.uk)



# Practical Biology for Teachers and Technicians: Delivering Skill Based Practicals

## Course Features

This one day course is designed to give teachers of A level Biology and their technicians opportunities to try a variety of practical activities and discuss how these can be used to:

- **develop the skills required by students**
- **complement the work done in theory classes**
- **stimulate discussion**

Technicians and teachers rarely attend the same courses. This course gives opportunities for both to work together during the day and develop ideas that they can use with their students. The topics are all central to A level Biology and the practicals can be carried out fairly cheaply. The place of practical work in schemes of work will be discussed. Each practical session will be devoted to one major area of the A level specifications. In each session there will be a variety of practicals to do. Each session will take a different approach to using practical work with students, such as individual work, group work, teacher demonstrations, data collection, data handling and evaluation. The course will provide a set of practical resources to use with students to develop their skills in:

- **following instructions**
- **recording information in tables**
- **presenting information in graphs**
- **using ICT in recording and presentation of practical work**
- **analysing and evaluating**

The course is suitable for:

- **Teachers and lecturers of AS and A2 Biology and Human Biology (all specifications)**
- **Technicians who have responsibility for preparing practical work in AS/A Biology and Human Biology**
- **Teachers who are about to start teaching A level in the near future.**

## Tutors: Richard Fosbery and Piers Wood

Richard has been a Chief Examiner at A level for 15 years. He is an author of textbooks, revision guides, study guides and CD based resources for GCSE and A level Biology. He has run many successful INSET courses to support GCE Biology including an online course for teachers overseas. Richard divides his time between teaching, writing and examining.

Piers has been an Examiner and Moderator at A level for many years. He is the author of CD based resources for A level Biology and has run INSET courses on practical biology. Piers teaches at a sixth form college in Cambridge.

**London**  
Tuesday  
3rd July 2012

**Delegates will  
receive course  
materials**

**Price £185 + VAT**

- 9.45am:** Registration and coffee
- 10.00am:** **Setting the scene** - The place of practical work in A level Biology
- 10.15am:** **Practical Session 1** - Biochemistry
- 11.00am:** Morning coffee
- 11.15am:** **Practical Session 2** - Microscopy and histology
- 12.30pm:** Lunch
- 1.15pm:** **Practical Session 3** - DNA technology - electrophoresis and PCR
- 2.15pm:** **Practical Session 4** - Respiration and photosynthesis
- 3.15pm:** Plenary
- 3.45pm:** Day ends

# A guide to teaching AS/A2 Biology for the first time

London  
Tuesday  
19th June 2012

Manchester  
Monday  
18th June 2012

Delegates will  
receive course  
materials

Price £185 + VAT

## Course Features

New teachers or more experienced colleagues who are about to have their first chance to teach A level biology may feel uneasy when facing the challenge of more able students or more academically stretching subject matter. This course will help to reassure you that with thorough planning and the confidence that this course can offer, you will not only be able to cope but will enjoy the experience too. The course will be split between didactic input, open question sessions and workshop activities. It is a generic course and suitable for all biology specifications.

Margaret and Alan have a huge amount of experience in the biology classroom they are still teaching A level Biology and loving it!!

## Tutors: Margaret Baker and Alan Morris

Margaret is Head of Science in a large FE college. She has led a successful Biology Department and is responsible for the training and monitoring of A level teachers. Margaret is a well known author and also has a number of years experience as an examiner and external moderator.

Alan is Head of Biology and an Advanced Practitioner in an FE College. He teaches on the PGCE course and observes practicing teachers, this has increased his awareness of the constraints and expectations placed on teachers today. He is also an author, and has had experience as an examiner and external moderator.

**9.45am:** Registration and coffee

### **10.00am: Content versus skill teaching**

- Which do you concentrate upon?
- Setting the standards early to establish good habits

**11:00am:** Morning coffee

### **11.15am: Lesson planning**

- Think 'key facts'
- incorporate effective assessment for learning to generate real thinking and improvement
- generating enthusiasm for the subject

### **12.00pm: Making use of different learning styles**

- Be active!
- Interactive and group approaches to teach the topics

**1.00pm:** Lunch

### **2.00pm: Practical skills that work**

- Improving data handling skills, analysis and evaluation
- HSW

### **2.45pm: Preparation for examination success-do's and don'ts!**

- Developing material to develop your students' skills
- What the examiner is looking for.

**3.45pm:** Day ends



# Innovative teaching strategies and creative classroom ideas: AQA A level Biology Unit 5 Control in cells and organisms

## Course Features

Many teachers and students have worked very hard to achieve excellent standards in this course. Unit 5 in particular has proven to be the most challenging unit with a number of difficult topics and students have been frustrated by the results. Unit 5 is worth the most marks and therefore will have the most impact on UMS scores. Examiners agree that students struggle with the more synoptic and applied style questions, particularly those related to How Science Works. Synoptic questions alone are worth 20% of the total mark, how best do we develop these skills in our students?

This course aims to provide a framework for developing effective strategies to provide students with the skills necessary to achieve higher grades. It will provide practical advice on developing schemes of work and enhancing learning experiences to meet examination requirements. It is designed to help delegates feel confident that they have a secure knowledge of the exam criteria and leave with some creative new strategies to help their students meet them.

## Tutor: John Medicott

John Medicott is currently Vice Principal in an oversubscribed sixth form college in North London and holds particular responsibility for the strategic development of Teaching and Learning. He has taught Science for over 15 years and has trained teachers for over 10 years. He has held a number of Senior Management positions and has led Science departments both in the UK and internationally. John is also currently writing and editing interactive educational software for Science teaching. A Graduate Member of the Institute of Biology, he has led many INSETs on Biology teaching during his time at the IOB and he is regularly graded as "outstanding" by delegates.

**London**  
Friday  
18th May 2012

**Manchester**  
Friday  
11th May 2012

Delegates will  
receive course  
materials

Price £185 + VAT

**9.45am:** Registration and coffee

**10.00am:** **Strategies for engaging & challenging your students with the Genetic code, Polypeptide synthesis & Recombinant Technology**

- Developing critical & ethical thinking skills related to Gene technology
- Models for approaching ethical questions in the exam

**11.15am:** Morning coffee

**11.30am:** **Strategies for engaging & challenging your students with Gene Expression**

- Creative interactive approaches & resources to develop independent learning
- Evaluation the use of stem cells in treating human disorders

**12.45pm:** Lunch

**1.45pm:** **Strategies for engaging & challenging your students with Survival & Response to the Environment**

- Creative interactive approaches & resources to develop collaborative learning
- Peer teaching and assessment
- Raising achievement by developing practical skills
- Compulsory & recommended practicals for Unit 5
- Strategies for approaching practical related questions in the exam

**2.45pm:** **Getting your students the best marks in the Exam!**

- Getting those A\*'s - stretch and challenge
- Strategies for embedding synoptic concepts
- Improving performance in Unit 5
- Extending writing questions- common mistakes and strategies to improve
- The secrets of finding similar style past questions

**3.45pm:** Day ends

# Success in OCR A Level Biology: F215 Control, Genomes and Environment *Strategies for raising achievement*

London  
Friday  
25th May 2012

## Course Features

Despite a lot of hard work by teachers and students F215 has proven to be the most challenging unit and both have been frustrated by the results. Unit 5 is worth the most marks and therefore will have the biggest impact on UMS scores. Examiners agree that students struggle with the more synoptic and applied style questions, particularly those related to How Science Works. Synoptic questions alone are worth 20% of the total mark, how best do we develop these skills in our students?

This course aims to provide a framework for developing effective strategies to provide students with the skills necessary to achieve higher grades. It will provide practical advice on developing schemes of work and enhancing learning experiences to meet examination requirements.

## Tutor: John Medicott

John Medicott is currently Vice Principal in an oversubscribed sixth form college in North London and holds particular responsibility for the strategic development of Teaching and Learning. He has taught Science for over 15 years and has trained teachers for over 10 years. He has held a number of Senior Management positions and has led Science departments both in the UK and internationally. John is also currently writing and editing interactive educational software for Science teaching. A Graduate Member of the Institute of Biology, he has led many INSETs on Biology teaching during his time at the IOB and he is regularly graded as "outstanding" by delegates.

Delegates will  
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materials

Price £185 + VAT

**9.45am:** Registration and coffee

**10.00am:** **Strategies for engaging & challenging your students with Module 2:**

### **Biotechnology and Gene Technology**

- Developing critical & ethical thinking skills related to Gene Technology
- Models for approaching ethical questions in the exam

**11.15am:** Morning coffee

**11.30am:** **Strategies for engaging & challenging your students with Module 4:**

### **Ecosystems and sustainability**

- Ideas for integrating HSW strategies- analysing, interpreting & evaluating data
- Causes v correlations
- Time saving suggestions for fieldwork
- Tackling data response questions effectively

**12.45pm:** Lunch

**1.45pm:** **Getting your students the best marks in the Exam!**

- Getting those A\*'s - stretch and challenge
- Strategies for embedding synoptic concepts
- Improving performance in Unit 5
- Extending writing questions- common mistakes and strategies to improve
- The secrets of finding similar style past questions

**3.00pm:** **Strategies for engaging & challenging your students with Module 5:**

### **Responding to the Environment**

- Raising achievement by developing practical skills
- Compulsory & recommended practicals for Unit 5
- Strategies for approaching practical related questions in the exam

**3.45pm:** Day ends

