

Biology

SCIENCES



Content

The course content includes the following areas of biology:

- DNA and the genome
- Metabolism and survival
- Sustainability and interdependence



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- apply knowledge and understanding of biology
- understand biology's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of biology, including the impact these could make in society and the environment
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills, including scientific evaluation, in a biology context
- use technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities, including using risk assessments
- develop planning and problem solving skills in a biology context
- use and understand scientific literacy to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- work independently



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- develop deeper understanding of the underlying themes of biology: evolution and adaptation; structure and function; genotype and niche
- become scientifically literate
- draw on knowledge and understanding and apply the skills of scientific inquiry to practical investigations/experiments



Assessment

- The course will be assessed through a question paper (exam) and an assignment, which will be marked by SQA and graded A to D.
- The question paper is worth 120 marks and makes up 80% of the total assessment mark. It contains two papers: paper 1 (25 marks) is multiple choice and paper 2 (95 marks) requires more detailed responses.
- The assignment makes up 20% of the total assessment mark and has two stages: research and report. The topic must be chosen with guidance from teachers and must involve experimental work. It is recommended that no more than 8 hours is spent on the whole assignment. A maximum of 2 hours is allowed for the report stage.



Question Paper

Section 1: Multiple choice questions (25 marks)

3 hours

Section 2: restricted and extended response questions (95 marks)

120 marks

Specimen Paper

www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm

Assignment

An investigation into a relevant topic, with research and a report written up under supervised conditions

8 hours



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Biology: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47912.html

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features [Factfile](#)

Education Scotland: <https://education.gov.scot/nationalqualifications>

[Further Information for Parents and Learners](#) Information on assessment, skills,

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

www.parentforumscotland.org



the National Parent Forum of Scotland

www.parentforumscotland.org

enquiries@parentforumscotland.org

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