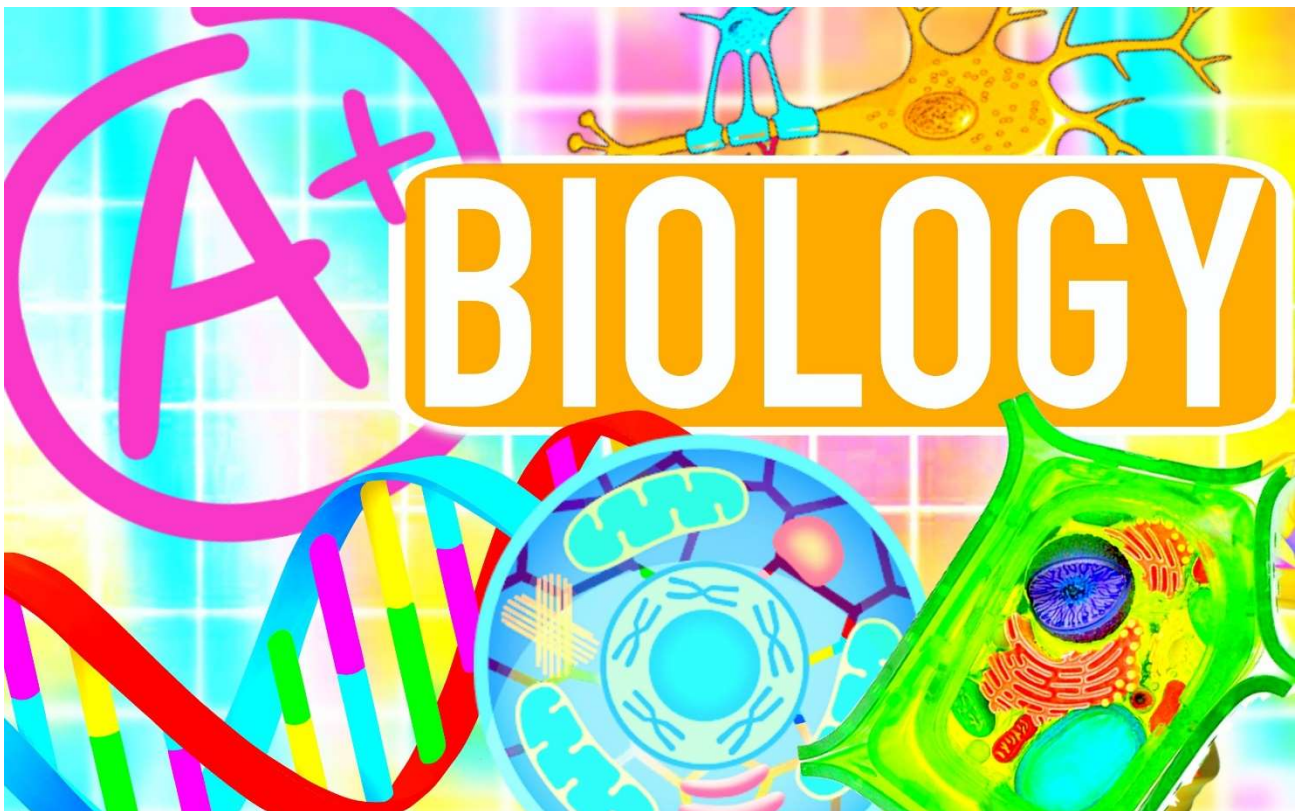


CfE Higher

Biology & Higher Human
Biology Courses

What's involved?

Information for Pupils and
Parents



What the course is about?

Biology is the study of living organisms, and plays a crucial role in our everyday existence and is an increasingly important subject in the modern world. Advances in technologies have made this subject more exciting and relevant than ever.

The course develops the ability to think analytically, creatively and independently to make reasoned evaluations through a variety of approaches including practical activities. Opportunities will be provided for learners to develop informed and ethical views of complex issues. The National 5 course will encourage communication, collaborative work; develop leadership skills as well as confidence in scientific skills.

How are the courses organised?

The **Higher Biology** course has **3 mandatory units** and **an assignment**.

- Unit 1 – DNA and the Genome
- Unit 2 – Metabolism and Survival
- Unit 3 – Sustainability and Interdependence

The **Higher Human Biology** course also has **3 mandatory units** and **an assignment**.

- Unit 1 – Human Cells
- Unit 2 – Physiology & Health
- Unit 3 – Neurobiology & Immunology

- Assignment - The purpose of the assignment is to allow you to have the opportunity to apply skills and knowledge that you have learned in class by investigating a chosen topic in

Biology. The assignment **MUST** include practical or fieldwork element. The assignment is worth **20% of your final grade** and will be **externally assessed**. The assignment is carried out under exam conditions, with a time restriction of 2 hours.

How will you (or your young person) be assessed throughout the course?

At the end of each Unit you will sit a UASP assessment to assess progress in the course.

A **prelim exam** will be completed in January covering course content from Unit 1 and Unit 2. An **additional prelim** that will assess learning across the entire course will be completed prior to the final exam.

Results from assessments and prelim will determine whether you are entered for:

- Higher course award and exam
- Higher unit award in final exam diet

External Assessment

Your final grade is based on an SQA examination (80%) and your assignment (20%) both are externally assessed. Your results will be graded A-D.

There are two papers for Higher which consist of a total of 120 marks spread across two papers as follows:

- Paper 1 – 25 marks, multiple choice questions – 40minutes
- Paper 2 – 95 marks for written structured questions – 2hours 20 minutes

What skills are assessed as part of the course?

The following provides a broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the course.

- Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of biology by making statements, describing information, providing explanations and integrating knowledge.
- Applying knowledge of biology to new situations, interpreting information and solving problems
- Planning, designing and safely carrying out experimental/fieldwork investigations to test given hypotheses or to illustrate particular effects
- Selecting information from a variety of sources
- Presenting information appropriately in a variety of forms
- Processing information (using calculations and units, where appropriate)
- Making predictions and generalisations based on evidence/information
- Drawing valid conclusions and giving explanations supported by evidence/justification
- Suggesting improvements to experimental/fieldwork investigations
- Communicating findings/information

How can you support your young person?

Each pupil should use their class notes, homework booklets & revision materials to support ongoing revision between classes, as well as in preparation for exams. Helping them organise these materials into a folder and regularly asking them about what they are studying will be useful. Creating a study timetable together can also be useful to balance commitments.

Past papers and marking instructions

Past papers are an excellent way to check your knowledge and also to practise exam technique. Past papers can be accessed at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=Biology&level=NH>

Useful websites

There are a number of websites which your young person may find very beneficial.

Bitesize <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zm6tyrd>

Oronsay <http://www.oronsay.org/Higher.htm>

Revision in a Nutshell

http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/nutshells_revision_H_biology.pdf



Pupil's responsibilities

Homework

1. You should read over your notes regularly at home to remind yourself of what you have studied. Ask your teacher the next day about anything you haven't understood.
2. After an absence you should catch up what you have missed
3. Homework should be recorded in your homework diary and must be completed on time. Your parents will be informed if your homework is not completed.

Other Responsibilities

1. Keep your notes organised into sections to allow easy revision and finding information for homework.
2. Bring your notes, etc with you to every lesson.
3. Keep track of your progress and work on your targets

Good Luck!!

Dates for the Diary

Unit 1 UASP and A/B test - October

Unit 2 UASP and prelim – December and January

Unit3 UASP – March

FINAL EXAM – Wednesday 13th May 2019

