National 5 Biology (Course Code: C807 75)

SCQF Level 5 (24 Credit Points)

Why study Biology?

Biology is the study of all living things, from the tiniest organisms to the largest lifeforms. You will learn how nature and the human body work, and how different forms of life eat, make energy and reproduce. You will also find out how Biology is helping to find solutions to world problems.

There are many career opportunities connected with biology, including medicine, nursing, dentistry, physiotherapy, food science, sport science, pharmacology and beauty therapy.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

Animals, Land and Environment

Hairdressing, Beauty and Wellbeing

Health and Medicine

Science and Maths

Sport

Teaching and Classroom Support

Uniformed and Security Services

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college but you would normally have achieved one of the following:

- **National 4 Biology**
- **National 4 Chemistry**
- **National 4 Environmental Science**
- **National 4 Physics**
- **National 4 Science**

What will I study?

Biology is a hands-on that develops your skills of scientific inquiry, and analytical thinking, along with knowledge and understanding, by undertaking practical activities in the classroom/local environment. You will research issues

and communicate information related to their findings, which will develop your skills of scientific literacy.

The course comprises **three** areas of study.

Cell biology

You will learn about:

cell structure; transport across cell membranes; DNA and the production of proteins; proteins; genetic engineering; and respiration.

Biology: multicellular organisms

You will learn about:

producing new cells; control and communication; reproduction; variation and inheritance; transport systems — plants; transport systems — animals; and absorption of materials.

Biology: life on Earth

You will learn about:

ecosystems; distribution of organisms; photosynthesis; energy in ecosystems; food production; and evolution of species.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment has **two** components **worth 120 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 100 marks (two sections, section 1 worth 25 marks and section 2 worth 75 marks)
- Component 2: assignment – worth 20 marks.

For the assignment component, you will be asked to choose a relevant topic to research, plan and carry out relevant experimental/fieldwork work, process and present this, compare information and data, and draw your conclusion. You will present your findings in a report. The assignment component will be set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The question paper will be set and marked externally by the SQA.

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across all course assessment components.

The course assessment is graded A–D.

Study Materials

- SQA Past Papers Biology National 5
- SQA Specimen Paper Biology National 5

- SQA Understanding Standards Biology
- BBC Bitesize National 5 Biology
- Ushare Study Resources

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- **Higher Biology**
- **Higher Environmental Science**
- **Higher Human Biology**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Animals, Land and Environment
- Hairdressing, Beauty and Wellbeing
- Health and Medicine
- Science and Mathematics
- Sport
- Teaching and Classroom Support
- Uniformed and Security Services