

Higher Biology (Course Code: C807 76)

SCQF Level 6 (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](#)

[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 be expected to have:

- **National 5 Biology**

What will I study?

The course will allow you to develop a deeper understanding of the underlying themes of biology. The scale of topics ranges from molecular through to whole organism and beyond.

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

DNA and the genome

The key areas covered are:

- the structure and replication of DNA; gene expression; cellular differentiation; the structure of the genome; mutations; evolution; genomic sequencing.

Metabolism and survival

The key areas covered are:

- metabolic pathways; cellular respiration; metabolic rate; metabolism in conformers and regulators; metabolism and adverse conditions; environmental control of metabolism; genetic control of metabolism.

Sustainability and interdependence

The key areas covered are:

- food supply, plant growth and productivity; plant and animal breeding; crop protection; animal welfare; symbiosis; social behaviour; components of biodiversity; threats to biodiversity.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment has **three** components **totalling 140 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper 1 (multiple choice) – worth 25 marks
- Component 2: question paper 2 – worth 95 marks
- Component 3: assignment – worth 20 marks.

For the assignment component, you will research a topic and produce a report based on your research. The research stage must involve experimental work which allows measurements to be made. You must also gather data/information from the internet, books or journals.

Both the question papers and the assignment are set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

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

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Biology Higher](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper 1 Biology Higher \(Multiple Choice\)](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper 2 Biology Higher](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Biology](#)
- [BBC Bitesize Biology Higher](#)

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully it may lead to:

- **Advanced Higher Biology**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Animals, Land and Environment
- Biology
- Health and Medicine
- Science and Mathematics
- Secondary School Teaching
- Sport
- Sports Science