

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Biology

BIOLOGY
SCIENCES

CfE
HIGHER

3
UNITS

DNA AND THE GENOME
METABOLISM AND SURVIVAL
SUSTAINABILITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



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

- To gain Higher Biology learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 120 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (20 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 100 marks) which is in two sections (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Biology is graded from A to D or as No Award.



Question Paper

Section 1: Multiple choice questions (20 marks)

2 hours 30 minutes

Section 2: restricted and extended response questions (80 marks)

100 marks

Specimen Paper

www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/BiologySQPH.pdf

Assignment

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

20 marks



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](#)

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf

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

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

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