

Curricular Area: Science

Course Title: Biology National 5

Course Description

The course provides a broad-based, integrated study of the range of biological topics which are required for progression to the study of Higher Human Biology as well as other areas of study at college or employment.

There are 3 units of study:

- Cell Biology
- Multicellular Organisms
- Life on Earth



The course further develops the key areas studied at National 4 level Biology.

Entry requirements

National 4 in Biology or National 5 in Chemistry or Physics

Presentation level

Students may be either presented for the 3 units at SCQF level 5 or for the final National 5 exam.

Assessment

Students who are working towards achieving SCQF level 5 Biology will sit Key Area assessments, testing their ability to recall knowledge related to key areas of content and successfully perform solving problem skills.

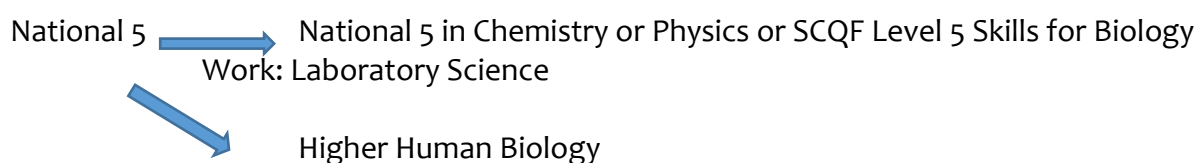
Students who are working towards passing the final National 5 exam will sit more demanding assessments with questions that test the application of their knowledge to new situations. All students will be applying skills of scientific enquiry throughout the course.

There is an Assignment (worth 20% of the final mark) and an exam, both of which are externally marked. During the Assignment, students will carry out an experiment and do some research into a relevant topic in Biology and compare their results to published data on the same theme. The student then present their findings in a written report. There will also be a prelim exam.

Home Study Expectations

Students are issued with home study either weekly or fortnightly depending on the demands of part of the course. Home Study tasks will vary and could include research, consolidation of learning, practicing data handling skills and writing up experiments. Students will be also be expected to spend 30 minutes each week reading over their notes.

Possible next level of study



Wider Achievement Opportunities

Students have many opportunities to explore and develop their investigative and practical skills in Biology. There are also opportunities to be involved in debates about contemporary controversial biological issues.

Possible career path

The study of biology at this level is a good stepping stone to other science courses at school or college.

Sport and exercise careers, research in laboratories or the natural environment, health care, food related careers, environmental management and conservation, education, biotechnology, forensic science, Science advisors for politics and policy makers, consultants on economic impact of biological issues, Science writing and communication, art: illustrations in Biology textbooks, magazines and many more.

For more information see <https://www.societyofbiology.org/careers-and-cpd/careers/make-a-difference>