

Supporting Your Learner

National 5 Biology

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Course Outline

In National 5 Biology pupils study three main areas

- Cell Biology
- Multicellular Organisms
- Life on Earth

Pupils will complete a research assignment which assesses scientific skills and knowledge and understanding and accounts for 20% of their overall grade. The National 5 exam makes up the other 80% and is based primarily on knowledge and understanding, applying scientific inquiry, scientific analytical thinking and problem solving skills.



Exam Preparation

The National 5 Biology exam is comprised of Section 1 (out of 20 marks), which is multiple choice and Section 2 (out of 60). The exam is 2 hours in length.

As the exam approaches, pupils should consolidate their knowledge using a range of revision strategies, such as mind maps, flash cards and summary notes. They should work on their skills through applying your knowledge questions. Pupils should also complete specimen and past paper questions and should work up to doing these under timed conditions.

Useful Websites

- You can find an excellent electronic version of a textbook by Preston Lodge High School [here](#).
- The BBC website has an area for National 5 Biology [here](#). This has revision notes and quizzes on it.
- [This website](#) (Oronsay) has some useful revision exercises.
- There are some good summary notes by Hyndland Secondary School [here](#).
- There is a link to a useful problem solving booklet by Elgin Academy [here](#).

Useful Textbooks

The following websites sell revision and course notes as well as past papers. We have a sample copy in the department of most Biology textbooks and can offer individual advice on what the best option for each pupil may be.

- [Hodder Education](#)
- [Leckie and Leckie](#)
- [Bright Red Publishing](#)



Revision Classes

Revision classes are regularly offered in the department – please see individual class teachers for times.

SQA Past Papers

The link below will allow you to access past examination papers as well as specimen papers produced by the SQA. There are also marking schemes on this page.

[SQA National 5 Biology Past Papers](#)

Understanding Standards

The link below to the SQA website will allow you to see where markers have awarded marks to exemplar papers and to read the comments on individual responses. It is especially helpful in identifying where marks are awarded for analysis and for knowledge.

[Understanding Standards: National 5 Biology](#)

