

Supporting Your Learner

Higher Biology

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Course Outline

In Higher Biology pupils study three main areas:

- DNA and the Genome
- Metabolism and Survival
- Sustainability and Interdependence

Exam Preparation

Pupils will complete a research assignment which assesses scientific inquiry skills and related knowledge and understanding and accounts for 20% of their overall grade.

Candidates will also undertake a final SQA exam which makes up the other 80% and is based primarily on knowledge and understanding, applying scientific inquiry, scientific analytical thinking and problem solving skills.

The assignment and the exam will both be externally assessed.

Useful Websites

- [BBC Bitesize](#) has some useful summaries and activities.
- The [Scholar](#) website has good summary notes and online tests.
- There are a range of useful resources on the [Elgin Academy](#) website.
- The [Kelso High School](#) website has good success criteria.

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 Higher 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: Higher Biology](#)

