

# BIOLOGY: ADVANCED HIGHER



**3 units:**            **Cells and Proteins**                      **Course Assessment: Question paper & Project**  
                         **Organisms and Evolution**  
                         **Investigative Biology**  
**Access:**            Recommended entry level is A or B at Higher Biology

## Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop a critical understanding of the role of biology in scientific issues & relevant applications, including the impact these could make on the environment/society
- extend and apply knowledge, understanding & skills of biology
- develop & apply the skills to carry out complex practical scientific activities, including the use of risk assessments, technology, equipment & materials
- develop & apply scientific inquiry & investigative skills, including planning & experimental design
- develop & apply analytical thinking skills, including critical evaluation of experimental procedures, in a biology context
- extend & apply problem solving skills in a biology context
- further develop an understanding of scientific literacy, using a wide range of resources, in order to communicate complex ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- extend & apply skills of independent/autonomous working in biology

## Opportunities for Learners

- Learners' creativity will be developed and encouraged through opportunities to generate new ideas when planning and designing investigations and experiments, which they will carry out.
- Practical investigative skills are particularly important at this level. This is reflected in the opportunity to carry out high-quality experimental work within all the Course Units, and particularly in the *Investigative Biology (Advanced Higher)* Unit, which incorporates both practical techniques and skills of scientific investigation.
- The Course allows flexibility and personalisation by offering choice within the key areas studied. The Course content has been selected to allow learners to study key biological concepts within situations of personal relevance, using up-to-date contexts.

## Assessment

To gain Advanced Higher Biology learners must pass the three Units, Project and Question paper.

- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA.
- The Course Assessment consists of a Project (30 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 100 marks) which is in two sections (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Advanced Higher Biology is graded from A to D or as No Award.

## Question Paper (100 marks) - 2 hours 30 minutes

- Section 1: Multiple choice questions (20 marks)
- Section 2: restricted and extended response questions (80 marks)

## Project - This project is:

- carried out independently by the learner, set by centres within SQA guidelines and conducted under some supervision and control
- The production of evidence for the project will be conducted in time to meet a submission date set by SQA
- Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.