

**BIOLOGY: HIGHER**

**3 UNITS: DNA AND THE GENOME  
METABOLISM AND SURVIVAL  
SUSTAINABILITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE**

**COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER**

### **Course Entry Requirements**

Pupils should consider this course if they have achieved National 5 at A or B (highly recommended) in the same course but could also consider this course if they have any other Science qualification at National 5 (grade A) or Higher (Grade A or B).

**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 incorporating an Assignment and Question Paper (final exam).
- 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 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** (100 marks)

- Section 1: Multiple choice questions (20 marks) 2 hours 30 minutes
- Section 2: Restricted and extended response questions (80 marks)

### **Assignment** (20 marks)

- An investigation into a relevant biology topic, with findings written up under timed conditions.

### **Progression**

Higher progresses onto;

- Advanced Higher in the same course (if Higher grade is A or B)
- Higher in any other science course (if Higher grade is C or above)