

# NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Biology National 5

**BIOLOGY**  
SCIENCES

NATIONAL  
**5**

**3**  
UNITS

**CELL BIOLOGY**  
**MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS**  
**LIFE ON EARTH**

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER**

## What skills will my child develop?

- a deeper knowledge and understanding of biology
- a deeper understanding of biology's role in scientific issues
- an understanding of biology in society and the environment
- scientific inquiry skills to plan and carry out experiments
- scientific analytical thinking skills in a biology context
- the ability to use technology, equipment and materials, in scientific activities
- problem-solving skills in a biology context
- use and understand scientific literacy, to communicate ideas and issues
- finding associations and investigating models in real-life contexts
- information-handling skills (selecting, presenting, processing information)
- the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in biology
- the ability to review science-based claims in media reports
- an understanding of the importance of accuracy
- evaluating environmental and scientific issues
- risk assessment and decision-making

## WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback
- A blend of classroom approaches including more challenging experimental, practical, investigative approaches, whole class, small group, one-to-one discussions, interactive teaching
- Collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities; cross-curricular learning eg with other sciences, mathematics, social studies, technologies or RMPS; with organisations such as STEMNET
- Space for personalisation and choice: the Assignment can be on a topic agreed by the learner and the teacher
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching, processing and presenting information (using calculations and units); evaluating; recording, displaying and interpreting data; using technology.

## ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') will demonstrate that learners can apply knowledge and understanding and scientific skills to an experiment or practical investigation and report on the investigation. This may be evidenced in a portfolio of work
- The Course Assessment will be a two-section Question Paper (exam) and an Assignment which will require learners to research a topical issue. The Course Assessment will be marked by the SQA and graded A to D.

National 5 progresses onto Higher Biology

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Biology National 5: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47427.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47427.html)

Education Scotland: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)



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