N5 BIOLOGY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Which topics are covered at N5?

Topic	Subtopic
Cell biology	Cell structure
	Transport across cell membranes
	DNA and the production of proteins
	Proteins
	Genetic engineering
	Respiration
Biology: multicellular organisms	Producing new cells
	Control and communication
	Reproduction
	Variation and inheritance
	Transport systems - plants
	Transport systems - animals
	Absorption of materials
Biology: life on Earth	Ecosystems
	Distribution of organisms
	Photosynthesis
	Energy in ecosystems
	Food production
	Evolution of species

What apps and websites can I use to support my learning?

https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/courses/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zync87h
https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm
Electronic textbook: https://nat5biopl.edubuzz.org/home

Are there important dates of which I should I be aware?

Sep/Oct – Formal Assessment Phase 1
Dec – Formal Assessment Phase 2
Feb/Mar – Assignment (20% of final grade)
Apr/May – Final exam

How is the course assessed?

COMPONENT	DETAILS	LENGTH	MARKS	SCALED MARK	%
FINAL EXAM:	Question paper	2 hours 30 minutes	100	100	80%
IN SCHOOL: Assignment	Assignment - undertaken in class under close supervision. Submitted to SQA for marking	8 hours, of which a maximum of 1 hour 30 minutes is allowed for the report stage	20	25	20%

What resources do I need?

Resources from lessons (One Note and Teams)
Login details to essential websites (above)

Where can I find more information about the exam and assignment?

The SQA Understanding Standards provides exemplars and grades awarded.
https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/

Where do I find the past papers?

These are on One Note but you will also find past papers back to 2018 on the SQA site.
https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm

Where do I find more information about the course?

https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/n5-course-spec-biology.pdf

What else can I do to improve?

- Attempt past papers (blind to marking instructions) and then check your answers.
- Pay particular attention to command words in past paper questions and what the answer requires.
- Read the course reports (https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/2022-n5-course-report-biology.pdf) to see the common errors made by candidates.

How do I ensure top marks?

Listen to and act on teacher feedback.
Prepare for all assessments.
Take advantage of study support opportunities.