

GCSE AQA biology 12 May afternoon and
8th June morning

How are you assessed?

You sit 2 written exams at the end of Year 11.

Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes.

Each paper is worth 100 marks (200 total).

There is no coursework, but practical skills are tested in the exams.

You can be tested on:

Cell biology

Organisation (heart, lungs, digestive system)

Infection and response

Bioenergetics (photosynthesis & respiration)

Homeostasis

Inheritance and evolution

Ecology

Practicals in class

You may have to describe methods.

Identify variables.

Analyse results or graphs.

Evaluate the investigation.

What types of questions come up?

Multiple choice

Short-answer questions

Calculations

4–6 mark extended questions (explain clearly in full sentences!)

Top Tips

Most marks are gained from:

Using correct scientific keywords

Explaining clearly (not just stating facts)

Showing working in calculations

Know the core content clearly.

Use correct scientific key terms.

Answer 4–6 mark questions with simple, clear explanations.

Be confident with basic maths skills.

Remember to use your rest/ breaks.

Focus on the Most Tested Topics

Make sure you fully understand (not just memorise):

Cell Biology -Functions of cell organelles, Microscopy (magnification calculation), Diffusion, osmosis, active transport, Enzymes lock and key model and Effect of temperature & pH denaturation

Organisation -Heart structure, Blood vessels (artery, vein, capillary differences), Digestive system & enzymes

Bioenergetics -Photosynthesis word equation, Limiting factors and Aerobic & anaerobic respiration

Homeostasis -Blood glucose control (insulin & glucagon) and Body temperature control

Ecology-Food chains/webs, Adaptations and carbon cycle

How to Answer 6-Mark Questions

Make 4–5 clear scientific points

Use key words correctly

Link cause and effect (use words like because, therefore, so)

Use bullet points.

Maths you must be confident with

Mean, range.

Magnification = image size \div real size.

Percentages.

Drawing and interpreting graphs.

Always show working!

Use the calculator, the exam has been time for calculator use.

Smart Revision Method

Instead of just reading notes:

Blurting (write everything you remember, then check).

Practice exam questions.

Mark your own answers using mark schemes.

Fix mistakes immediately.

Link to knowledge organisers:[knowledge organisers](#)

Link to past papers and mark schemes:[BIOLOGY REVISION](#)

Link to revision websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKYQ-K23Mr4&list=PL7O6CcKg0HaGnykp12D8yVee_SEQdaEHH&index=1