

STROMNESS ACADEMY

Biology Homework

The Biology Department believes in the value of homework in that it can be used to:

- Introduce the concept of home study
- Reinforce concepts taught in class
- Extend students' knowledge and develop their investigative skills
- Ensure all students experience the type of questions they will encounter in their final exams

To this end, homework should be:

- Interesting, varied and challenging.
- Varied in difficulty enough to extend the more able students but with differentiated outcomes for all pupils.
- Capable of rigorous marking, either by the teacher or by peer / self marking using the marking schemes provided. This will then be followed by an opportunity for the students to improve on any identified weaknesses.

To reinforce the value of homework, the teacher should ensure that:

- Students enter homework details into their student planner.
- All homework is marked and promptly returned with appropriate comments added.
- Students have the opportunity to share and comment on examples of good pieces of homework
- Any student who persists in returning homework late is referred to the PT who will ensure that any difficulties are checked. The PT will then discuss concerns with the appropriate Guidance teacher and Year Head before contacting parents.

S3 / 4

- Pupils will be set a mixture of knowledge, problem solving and interpretation questions similar to the style pupils will experience in their exams.
- Pupils will also be set a number of more open ended tasks and assignments using the pupil outcomes shared on the schools' website. These are designed to encourage the development of a range of study techniques and independent research. These tasks will involve the production of a variety of revision tools and reports. Pupils will have an opportunity to share their ideas with their peers and use the feedback to modify and improve their homework.

Higher and Advanced Higher

- Pupils will be set a mixture of Past Paper Questions and data interpretation questions (as issued in the SQA Support Materials.)
- Pupils will be expected to redraft all of the essays they will have written in class using the feedback and relevant SQA marking schemes.
- Pupils will also be expected to continue to develop their study techniques by using the pupil outcomes and target dates shared on the schools' website to plan their study time. This will involve the pupils preparing for topics, producing their own revision materials and regularly accessing Scholar to complete the relevant assessments.

Pupils at all levels can access support for their homework assignments through approaching any member of the Biology department or by attending Supported Study classes.