

AQA Biology A-Level

Required Practical 5

Dissection of animal or plant gas exchange system or mass transport system or of organs within such a system.





Dissections are essential to a complete understanding of **internal biological functions**. Example dissections include: heart, fish gills, insect respiratory system or lungs. There are some **ethical issues** with dissection, including the way in which the animals are raised and killed.

Equipment list

- Scalpel
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Pins
- Dissection board
- Newspaper/paper towels
- Biological specimen

Risk Assessment

Hazard	Risk	Safety Precaution	In emergency	Risk Level
Biohazard	Contamination	Use disinfectant; keep sample on dissection board; wash hands with soap after dissection	Seek assistance	Low
Disinfectant	Flammable	Keep away from naked flame	Put out fire; seek assistance	Low
Sharp tools	Cuts from sharp object	Cut away from fingers; use forceps to hold tissue whilst cutting; keep away from the edge of the desk	Elevate cuts; apply pressure; seek medical assistance	Low

- You should wear a **lab coat**, **gloves** and **eye protection** for all dissections



Tips for drawing a labelled diagram

- Use a sharp HB pencil
- Make sure drawing is large enough for detail and labels (at least half a page advisable)
- No shading
- Use single and continuous lines (no sketching)
- Label lines should be drawn with a ruler
- Do not cross label lines
- Lines should not have any arrows
- Label all the structures
- Do not use colour
- Include a magnification/scale

