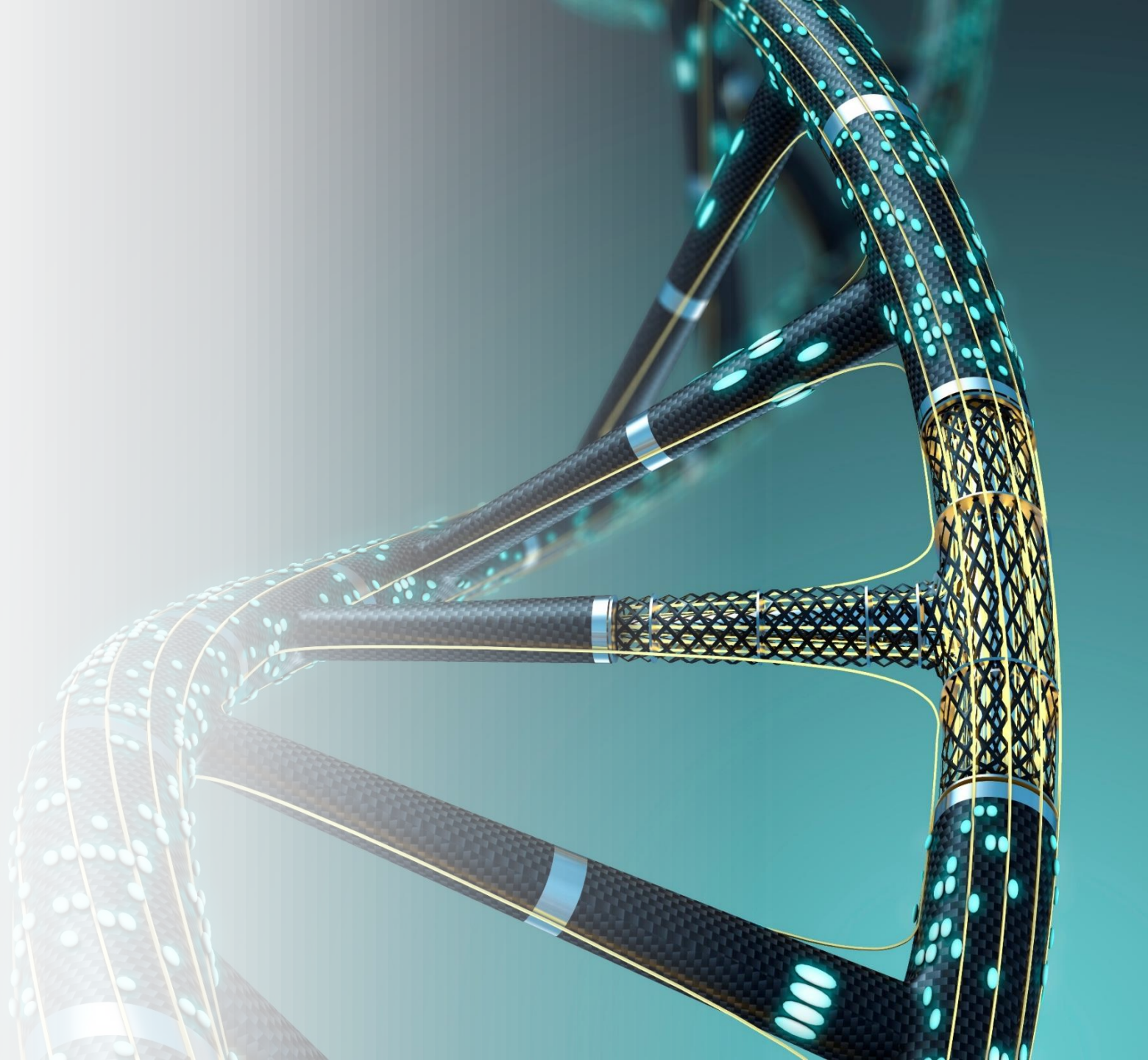
Welcome to A Level Biology!

AQA AS Biology (7401)

A-level Biology (7402).



Course introduction – objectives.

- Know the topics you will study on the A-Level Biology course.
- Know the assessment objectives and their levels of difficulty.
- Understand how you will be assessed in the examinations at the end of the course.
- Know how mathematical and practical skills will be integrated into the course and how they will be assessed

There are 4 units in A Level Biology Year 1.

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. How organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Plus you will carry out and learn six required practicals

There are 4 units in A Level Biology Year 2.

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms

6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment.

7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

8. The control of gene expression

Plus six additional required practicals

There are 3 assessment objectives with increasing level of challenge.

AO1:

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.

AO2:

Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures:

- in a theoretical context
- in a practical context
- when handling qualitative data
- when handling quantitative data

AO3:

Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to:

- make judgements and reach conclusions
- develop and refine practical design and procedures

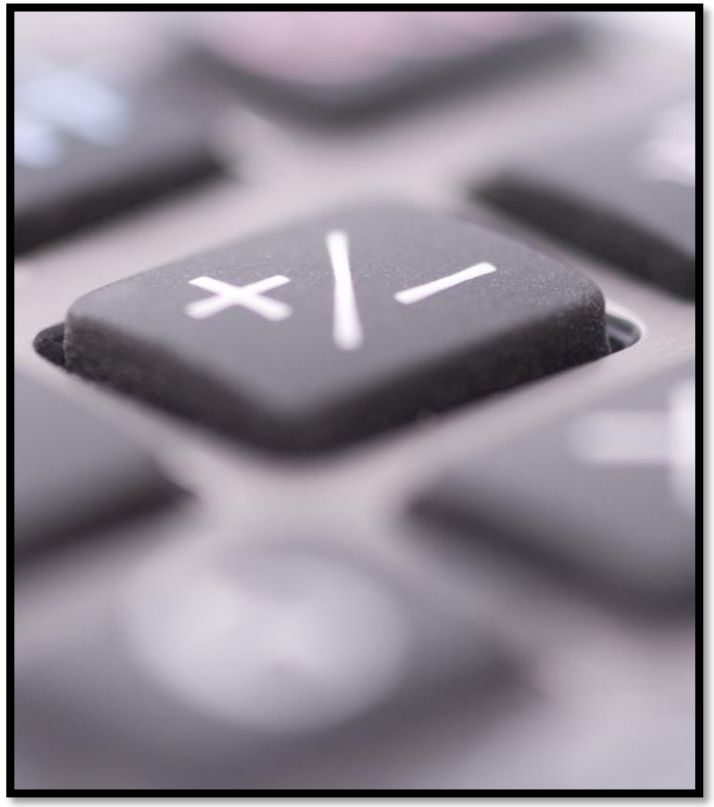
You will be assessed by sitting 3 examination papers:

Assessments

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
What's assessed • Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills	**What's assessed** • Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills	**What's assessed** • Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed • written exam: 2 hours • 91 marks • 35% of A-level	**Assessed** • written exam: 2 hours • 91 marks • 35% of A-level	**Assessed** • written exam: 2 hours • 78 marks • 30% of A-level
Questions • 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions • 15 marks: extended response questions	**Questions** • 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions • 15 marks: comprehension question	**Questions** • 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques • 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data • 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

At least 10% of the marks in assessments for biology will require the use of mathematical skills.

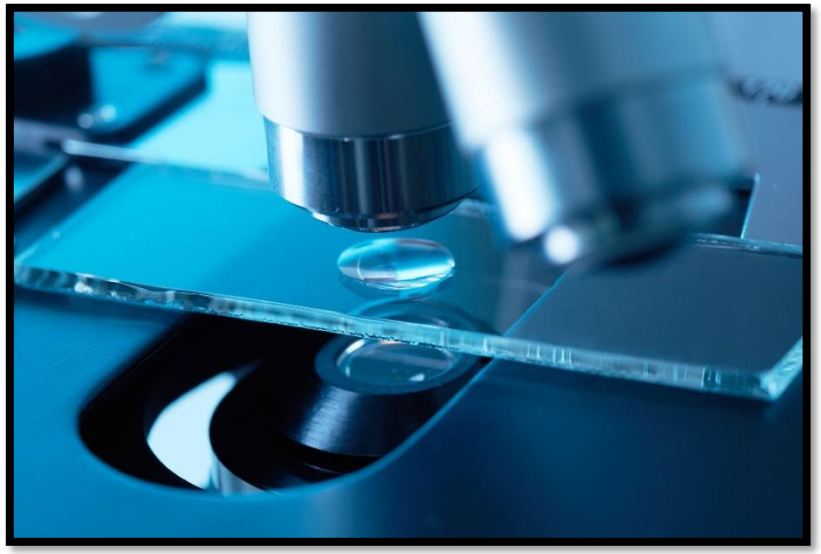
These will be at least at the level of the **GCSE Higher** paper and will be practiced in class and assessed in the examination questions.



At least 15% of the marks in assessments for biology will require the use of practical skills.

Practical skills will be assessed by examination. However, you will be awarded in addition to this a pass or fail grade based on the following competencies:

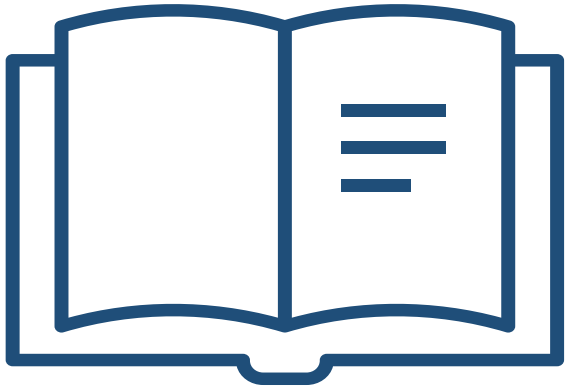
1. Following written procedures
2. Applying investigative approaches and methods when using instruments and equipment
3. Safely using a range of practical equipment and materials
4. Making and recording observations
5. Researching, referencing and writing reports



You will keep an experiment log:

1. Revise from this for your examinations.

2. Keep your work organised! You may have to provide your log book as evidence for your Practical Endorsement.



Time for a quiz!

I will study cells during…

Year 1

Year 2

The following is a Year 2 topic -

The control of gene expression

Biological molecules

The number of compulsory practicals in Year 1 is -

Six

Twelve

I will receive a practical endorsement qualification at the end of my course

False

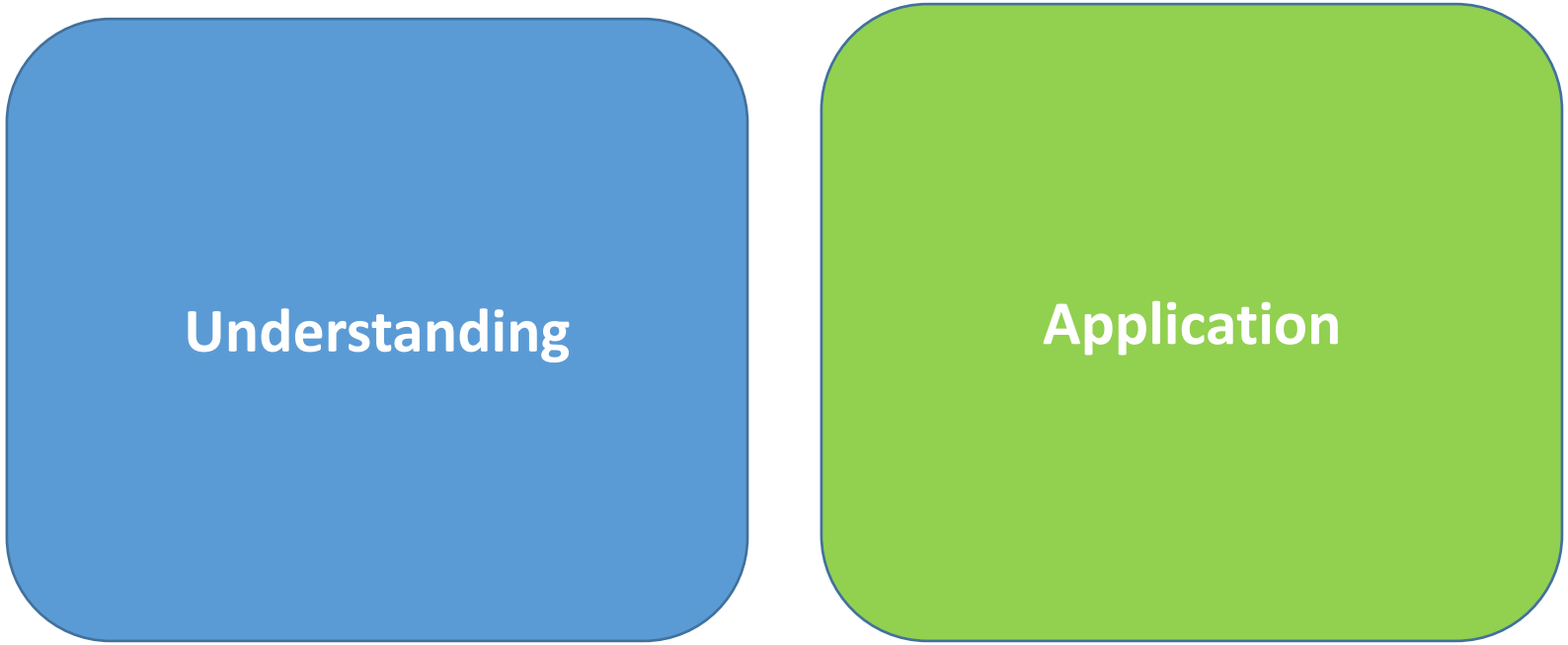
True

I can achieve grades A-E for my practical endorsement.

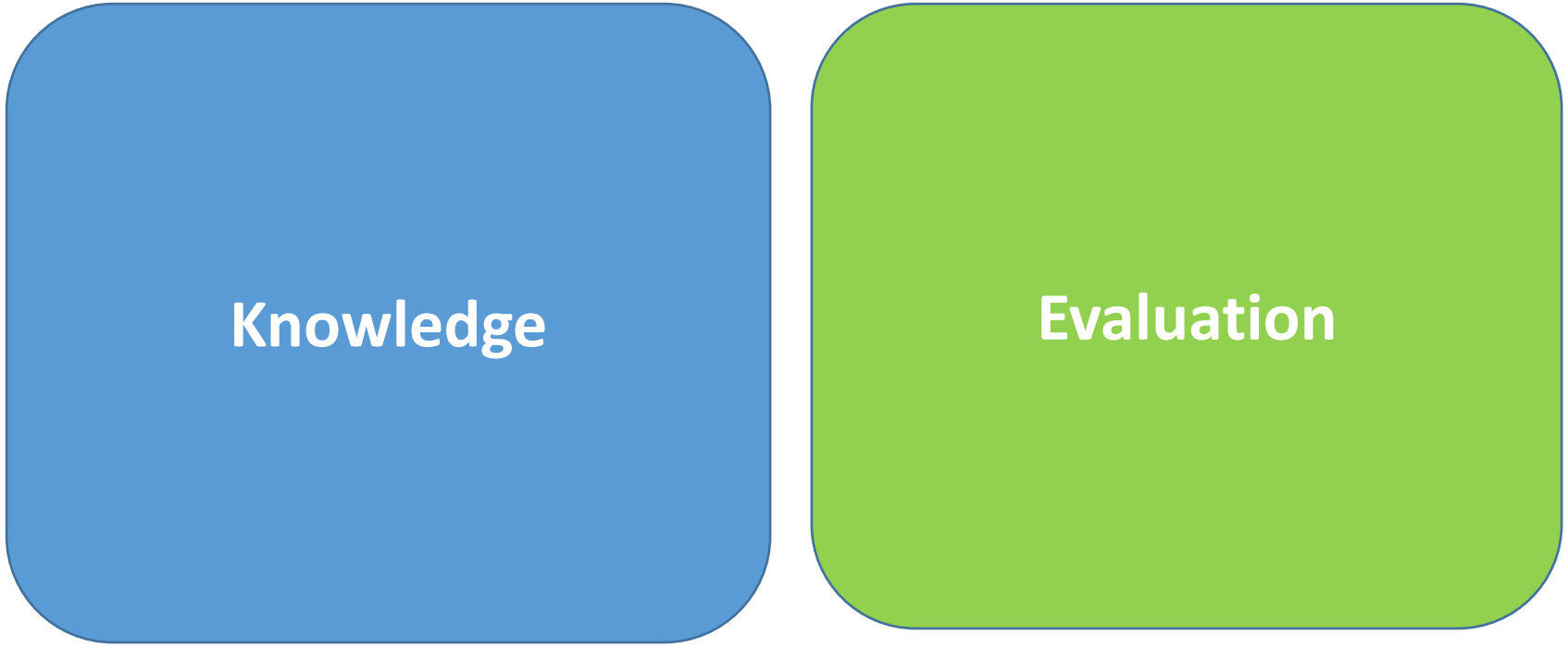
True

False

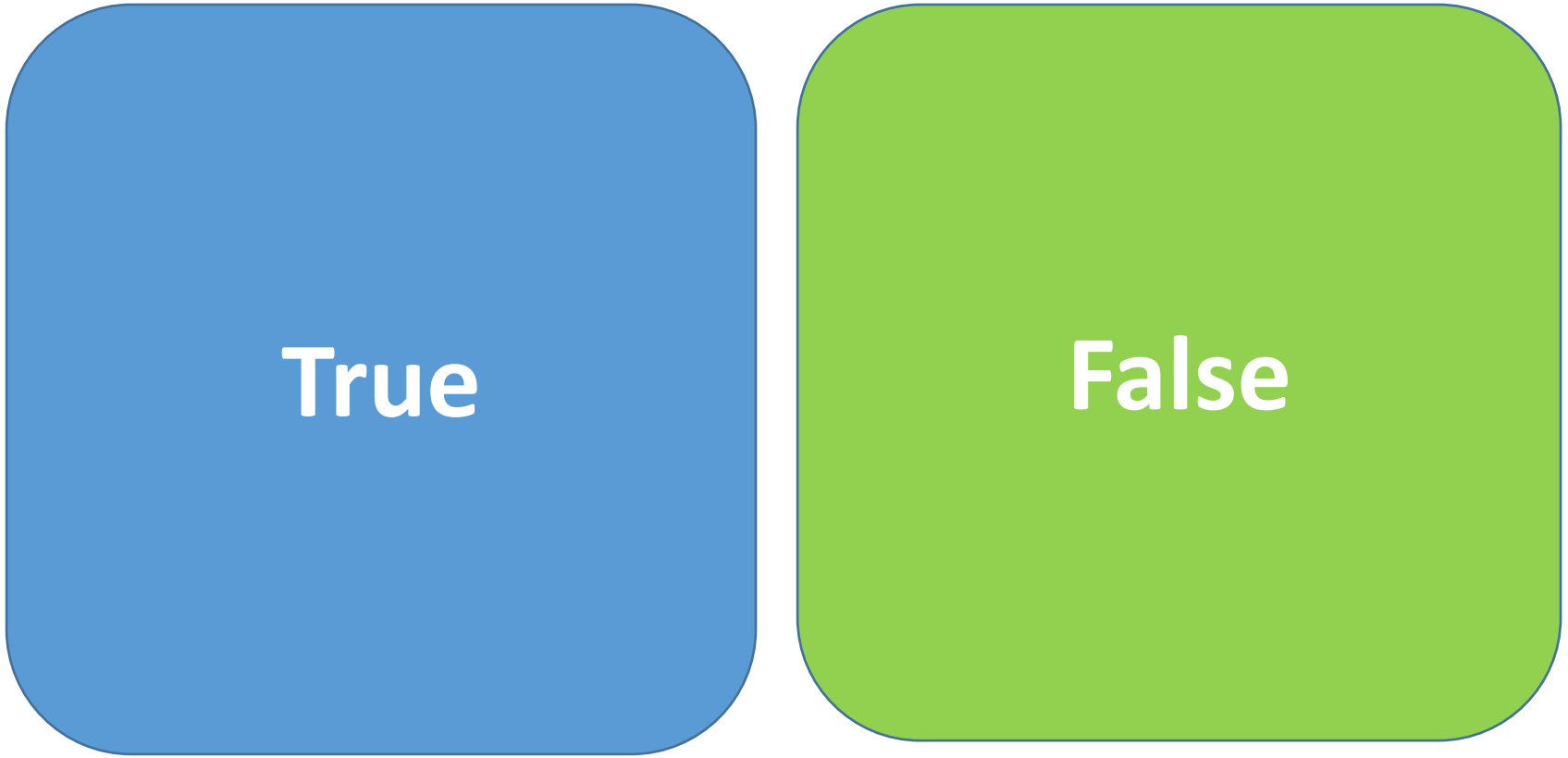
Which is the more difficult skill?



Which is the more difficult skill?



I will have to write an essay during paper 3 of the A-Level exam

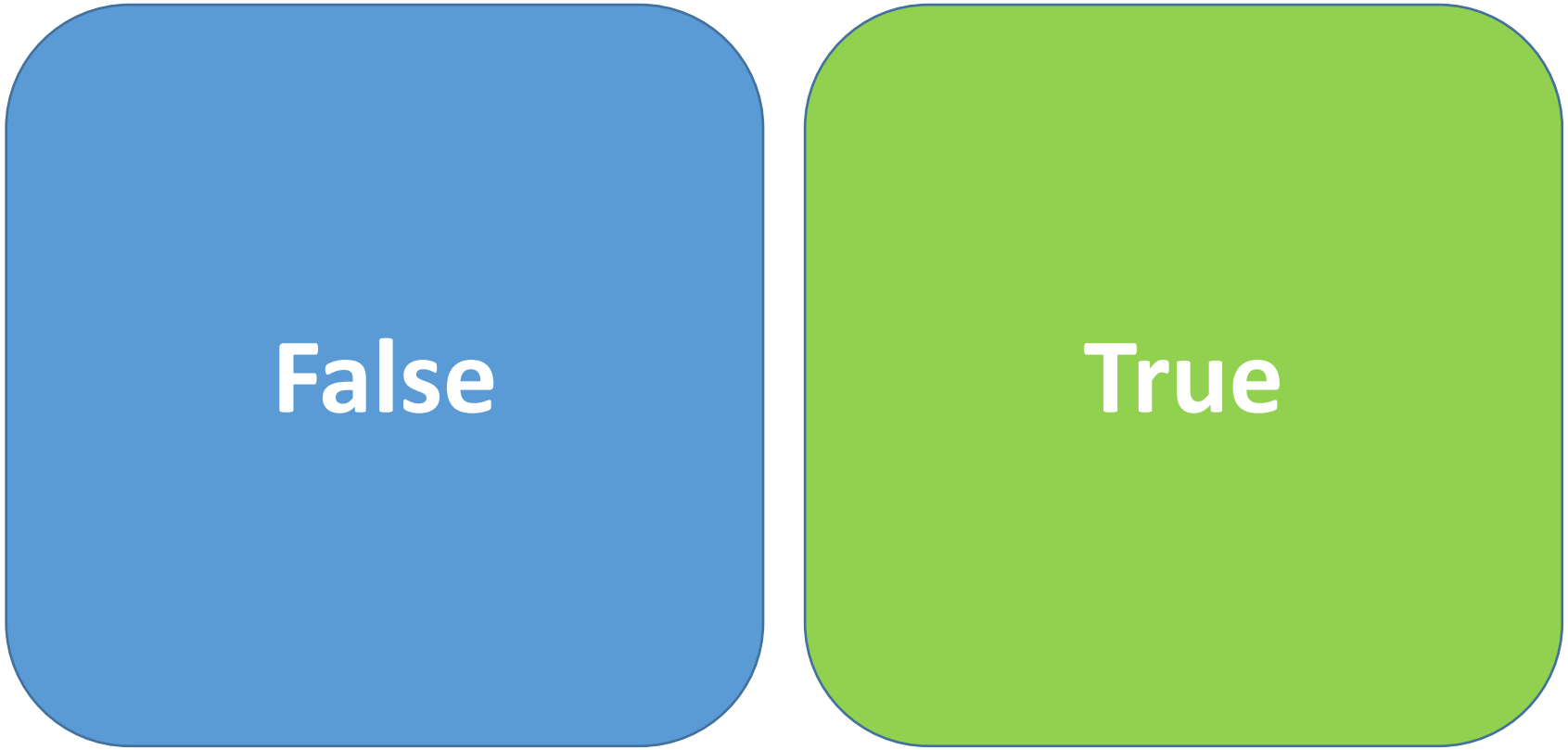


Which is the longer A-Level Paper?

Paper 3

Paper 2

The maths skills I need include some from higher level at GCSE.



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