

9.- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Hello! I am your teacher, Angel Abós, and I'm going to teach you Science, which you will learn throughout the four years of your compulsory secondary education.

I am going to start by talking about the importance that this scientific subject has on students of your age; then I'll talk about the objectives that are supposed to be fulfilled during your compulsory secondary education; I will also talk a little about the different topics which are dealt with in each year; and, lastly, I will discuss laboratory work, which, as with any scientific subject, is an important part of the practical side of the subject.

Well, as concerns the importance of science in any pupil's education, I can say that, in today's society, science is an essential tool in the understanding of how our planet, our world and even our society work.

In addition, science allows us to have or to adopt responsible and critical attitudes towards life in general, to our health in particular, and also to the resources which the earth and the environment offer us, too.

It seems clear that scientific knowledge must be part of every citizen's culture: science is also culture, as we can see on a daily basis when we read the papers or we watch the news. There are more and more scientific topics in these media.

The Natural Science Area is taught throughout the four years of secondary education: in the first and second years it is called Natural Sciences, and it includes elements of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geology.

From the third year onwards, the area is divided into two subjects: biology and geology on one hand; physics and chemistry on the other. In the fourth year of secondary education, they continue to be separated as mentioned.

In the fourth year of secondary education, the subject is optional: not every pupil needs to take it. And, logically, the contents studied are a bit more complicated.

To finish off, here we are in a laboratory. The students are here making observations through the microscope; they are also trying to assemble DNA molecules using some coloured counters we have here; they are studying rocks and minerals and trying to classify them; they are even putting together a human body with all its different organs and structures.

PUPIL: The microscope is used to study samples. Right now, my classmate is observing a blood sample with the microscope. Once we have finished observing, we make a summary of what we have observed.