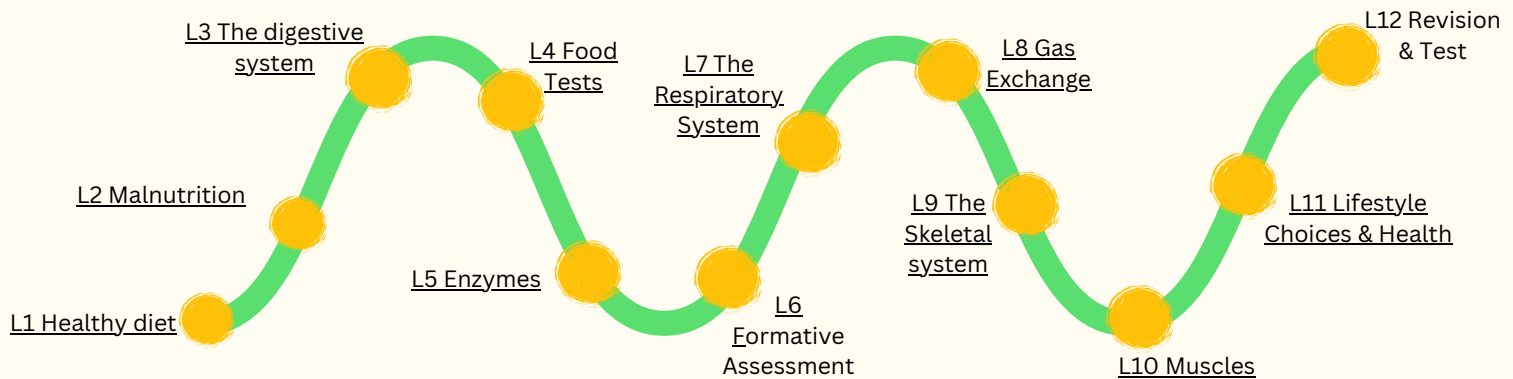


Yr8 Digestion and Breathing

In this topic you will learn how the human digestive system will break down food into smaller molecules that will be absorbed into your bloodstream. You will explore how your lungs will function to supply oxygen for respiration through the process of breathing. You will also investigate how enzymes and alveoli will make both digestion and breathing efficient and essential for life.



Prior learning link: KS1 & 2 Animals, including humans.

Key words

- **Digestion** – The process of breaking down food into smaller molecules that the body can absorb.
- **Enzyme** – A protein that speeds up chemical reactions, such as breaking down food in digestion.
- **Mouth** – The start of the digestive system where food is chewed and mixed with saliva.
- **Oesophagus** – The muscular tube that moves food from the mouth to the stomach.
- **Stomach** – An organ where food is mixed with acid and enzymes to continue digestion.
- **Small Intestine** – The part of the digestive system where most nutrients are absorbed into the bloodstream.
- **Large Intestine** – The part of the digestive system that absorbs water and forms waste (faeces).
- **Absorption** – The process of nutrients passing from the small intestine into the blood.
- **Respiration** – A chemical process in cells that releases energy from glucose using oxygen.
- **Breathing** – The physical process of moving air in and out of the lungs.
- **Lungs** – The organs where gas exchange takes place between air and the blood.
- **Alveoli** – Tiny air sacs in the lungs where oxygen enters the blood and carbon dioxide leaves it.
- **Oxygen** – A gas from the air that the body needs for respiration.
- **Carbon Dioxide** – A waste gas made during respiration that the body breathes out.
- **Diaphragm** – A muscle under the lungs that helps control breathing by moving up and down.

Revision Resources

[BBC KS3 Nutrition, digestion and excretion](#)

[BBC KS3 Respiration and Gas Exchange](#)