

Note: All text underlined in blue are hyperlinks to external resources



Key learning outcomes:

- Identify the key anatomical features of the organs in the digestive system
- Describe the layers of the gastrointestinal wall
- Describe the key enzymes involved in digestion
- Describe the three key stages of digestion
- Explain the key functions of the accessory organs

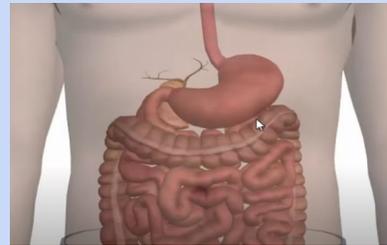
ANATOMY

The digestive system is very interesting as it covers several components and engages with other body systems. This will be a great recap of A Level topics but will also introduce some new concepts which you'll spend more time on in the first year at Cardiff. There are so many areas to cover that this is just a taster (excuse the pun!) of what is to come – if you feel confused by some of the content don't worry, everything will be looked at in the first year, and again in later years throughout the spiral curriculum.



As usual, let's start off with an overview of the system

This Crash Course [video](#) will introduce the key components and their functions



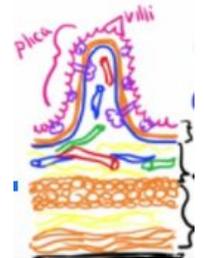
The following AnatomyZone videos will give you a detailed introduction to:

- [Oesophagus & Stomach](#)
- [Small & Large Intestines](#)
- [Accessory Organs](#)

MICROANATOMY

Throughout the digestive system, there is similarity between the layers of the walls. Start off by watching this [video](#), which will give you a detailed description of what you need to understand. Then, go onto to appreciate what these look like underneath the microscope:

- This histology guide will go through in more detail - key features found in different organs of the GI tract ([READ](#))
- Check out the slides on GI tract ([VIEW](#)) and also accessory organs (liver, pancreas & gall bladder) ([VIEW](#))



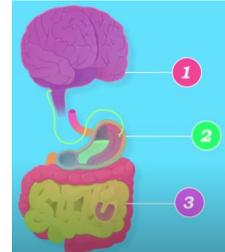
PHYSIOLOGY

It is essential to grasp an understanding of the enzymes involved in the digestive system - you should already know most of these:

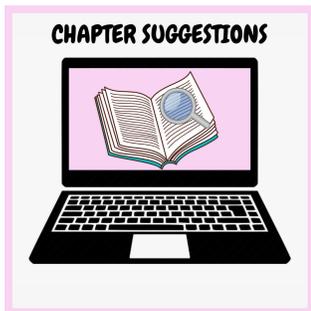
- Khan Academy -16m ([WATCH](#))
- Physiology basics - 4m ([WATCH](#))

However, what may be new to you, are the three phases of digestion, which the following videos will cover:

- Crash course introduces it in [Part 2](#) and then recaps enzymes in [Part 3](#)
- This video nicely outlines the phases as well ([WATCH](#))
- If you'd like to know more detail on what occurs in absorption, check out this [video](#)



Additionally, this Khan Academy [video](#) will introduce you to the liver - which is an accessory organ



If you like to read instead, these online chapters give an overview of the information discussed in the videos:

- > Anatomy: great summary table in first section + extra detail to skim over ([READ](#))
- > Microanatomy: layers of the GI wall ([READ](#))
- > Physiology:
 - Phases of digestion ([READ](#))
 - Digestive enzymes ([READ](#))
 - Absorption of digestive products ([READ](#))
 - Accessory organs ([READ](#))

To finish off, try these quizzes to see what you have learnt!

- There are three anatomy and two physiology quizzes to try out! ([GO](#))
- General digestive system - quiz 1 ([GO](#)) | quiz 2 ([GO](#))
- Digestive enzymes ([GO](#))
- Scroll to digestive system to try out quizzes on a variety of concepts discussed ([GO](#))



Hope you have found this resource useful! Once you have completed this, please give some short feedback - it will take 10 seconds to fill in! This will help me to get your opinions and check engagement! ([GIVE FEEDBACK](#))