

This is the **Higher Combined** version — includes Higher Tier content. Some Separate-only details are omitted.

Multicellular organisms are organised in a hierarchy from individual cells up to the complete organism.

- Hierarchy: Cell → Tissue → Organ → Organ System → Organism.
- Cell: the basic functional unit of life.
- Tissue: a group of similar cells working together to perform a function. E.g. muscle tissue, epithelial tissue, glandular tissue.
- Organ: a group of different tissues working together. E.g. the stomach contains muscle, glandular and epithelial tissue.
- Organ system: a group of organs working together. E.g. digestive system = mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, liver, pancreas.
- Organism: the complete living thing, made up of all its organ systems.

Key Terms

Tissue	A group of similar cells performing the same function
Organ	A group of different tissues working together for a specific function
Organ system	A group of organs that together perform a major body function

■ **Exam Tip:** The hierarchy from smallest to largest: CELL → TISSUE → ORGAN → ORGAN SYSTEM → ORGANISM. This is often worth 1 mark as a simple recall question — memorise the exact order.