

Biology

(for students studying in S4 in the 2013/14 sy and taking the 2016 HKDSE Exam)

Why do you need to study Biology?

The Biology Curriculum provides biology-related learning experiences that enable students to develop scientific literacy, so that they can participate actively in our rapidly changing knowledge-based society, prepare for further studies or careers in the fields related to life science, and become lifelong learners in science and technology.

What will you learn from Biology?

The curriculum consists of compulsory and elective parts. The compulsory part covers a range of content that enables students to develop understanding of fundamental biological principles and concepts, and the scientific process skills. The elective part is designed to cater for the diverse interests, abilities and needs of students. It aims to provide an in-depth treatment of some of the topics in the compulsory part, an application of essential knowledge and concepts, or an extension of certain areas of study. The curriculum structure of the subject is shown below.

Compulsory Part	Elective Part (Choose any 2 out of 4)
I. Cells and Molecules of Life II. Genetics and Evolution III. Organisms and Environment IV. Health and Diseases	V. Human Physiology: Regulation and Control VI. Applied Ecology VII. Microorganisms and Humans VIII. Biotechnology

How will you be assessed in Biology?

Component		Weightin	Duration
Public Examination	Paper 1 Compulsory part of the curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paper comprises two sections: A and B. • Section A consists of multiple-choice questions and carries 18% of the subject mark. • Section B includes short questions, structured questions and an essay question, and it carries 42% of the subject mark. • Candidates have to attempt all questions in this paper. 	60%	2 hour 30 minutes
	Paper 2 Elective part of the curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paper consists of structured questions set on the four elective topics of the curriculum. Candidates are required to attempt questions from any two of the four electives. 	20%	1 hour
School-based Assessment (SBA)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates are required to perform a stipulated amount of practical work. • In S5 and S6, candidates will be assessed in two ability areas: A and B. Ability area A concerns the practical abilities of candidates, whereas ability area B focuses on the planning and reporting of scientific investigation. • Ability area A carries 8% of the subject mark, while area B carries 12% of the mark. The minimum number of assessments required in S5 and S6 for the different areas is 1 in each school year. 	20%	

* For the assessment of investigation reports, teachers are allowed to provide the following in the task sheet given to students:

- generic guidelines / guiding questions on the design of the investigation and writing of report
- technical information which is essential for the investigation work to be completed within class time

For further information, please refer to EDB's website "New Academic Structure Web Bulletin" (<http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/EN/>) or consult your teacher.