

GCSE BIOLOGY

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Summer 2022 only

There are two tiers of entry for this qualification: Higher Tier – Grades A* - D
Foundation Tier – Grades C - G

This GCSE qualification in Biology offers assessment at foundation and higher tier. In most cases, we would expect candidates to be assessed within the same tier. Exceptionally, it may be appropriate to enter some candidates for a combination of higher and foundation tier units.

Unit 1: CELLS, ORGAN SYSTEMS and ECOSYSTEMS

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

A mix of short answer questions, structured questions, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context. A tiered assessment.

Unit 2: VARIATION, HOMEOSTASIS and MICRO-ORGANISMS

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

100% of qualification

180 UMS

80 marks

A mix of short answer questions, structured questions, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context. A tiered assessment.

Unit 3: PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT (not available in 2022)

30 marks

This unit is not subject to assessment in 2022.

This adapted version of GCSE Biology is for candidates cashing-in the qualification in **June 2022 only**. Candidates entering the qualification in 2023 should use the approved [specification](#).

-

Summary of changes for 2022

Entry requirements

Learners cashing-in in 2022 will be expected to sit Unit 2 only. It is accepted that they would normally have sat unit 1 in summer 2021 and the removal of the unit will mean that there is no increased assessment burden for learners in summer 2022.

Units 1 + 2:

Written exams

There are no changes to the assessment of these units.

Unit 3: Practical Assessment

Unit 3 will not be assessed in 2022.

Further information

Although the practical assessment unit is being removed for assessment in 2022, WJEC strongly encourages centres to complete hands-on practical work in the coming academic year. However, if this is not possible then teacher demonstrations, video clips, simulations and other appropriate resources must be used to provide basic experience of relevant practical methods.

Please note that practical style questions will still be present in the written exams in summer 2022 and the specified practical work remains part of the specification content.