

Circular S/IF/07/25

February 2025

To: The Principals of Post-Primary Schools and Directors of Further and Higher Education

For circulation to: Head of Science and Teacher in charge of Biology

GCSE Biology

Examination Paper – Moving from manual marking to online marking from the Summer 2025 series onwards

This circular is to advise that the GCSE Biology Practical Booklet A (GBL31 and GBL33) will be marked online in the Summer 2025 series and onwards. The layout of the examination paper will change to facilitate online marking.

Please note the following:

- Candidates will still be required to answer on the question paper.
- As the question papers will be marked online, each page will have a boxed area that contains the response space.
- Candidates must not write outside the boxed area on each page as this will not be copied across when scanned for marking.
- Candidates must complete questions in black ink and not write with a gel pen. They should also use a dark HB pencil for drawings and graphs.
- Furthermore, there may be pages marked ‘blank pages’ and candidates must not write anything on these pages, as again, they will not be scanned.

The layout of the GBL31 and GBL33 examination papers will be similar to the other GCSE Biology theory examination papers that are currently marked online, and these can be viewed in the GCSE Biology Past Papers & Mark Schemes section of the CCEA website.

Please ensure candidates are aware of the above information.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular, please contact:

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