

GCE Biology Specification Addendum

Exceptional Assessment Adaptations (for 2021–2022)

This addendum should be used in conjunction with the current specification

The table below shows the units available for Summer 2022 cash in and details where applicable:

- the unit eligible for omission; or
- any adaptations that have been made to internally assessed tasks for 2021–2022; and
- any adaptations that have been made due to public health restrictions

Please note: This applies only to candidates entering in Summer 2022

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2021–2022
AS 1: Molecules and Cells	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.	37.5% of AS 15% of A level	No changes
AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.	37.5% of AS 15% of A level	No changes

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2021–2022
AS 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology	External written examination assessing practical skills 1 hour and internal practical assessment (Teachers mark the assessment and we moderate the results)	25% of AS 10% of A level	This unit will be eligible for omission for candidates cashing in for the AS qualification level grade in Summer 2022. This unit will still be available for any candidates wishing to be assessed in all units.
A2 1: Physiology, Co-ordination and Control, and Ecosystems	External written examination 2 hours 15 mins Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.	24% of A level	No changes
A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends	External written examination 2 hours 15 mins Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.	24% of A level	No changes
A2 3: Practical Skills in Biology	External written examination assessing practical skills 1 hour 15 mins and internal practical assessment (Teachers mark the assessment and we moderate the results)	12% of A level	This unit will be eligible for omission for candidates cashing in for the A Level qualification grade in Summer 2022. This unit will still be available for any candidates wishing to be assessed in all units.

1. AS Summer 2022

For those students who are due to cash in for the AS qualification in Summer 2022, should they choose to sit all three units, they will receive the higher of either:

- the grade awarded on the basis of the outcome of the required units specified by CCEA;
or
- the grade awarded on the basis of the outcome of the full set of units for that qualification.

In both cases the full specification content should still be delivered.

2. A2 Summer 2022

For those students who are due to cash in the full A Level qualification in Summer 2022, should they choose to sit all three units, they will receive the higher of either:

- the grade awarded on the basis of the outcome of the required units specified by CCEA;
or
- the grade awarded on the basis of the outcome of the full set of units for that qualification.

In both cases the full specification content should still be delivered.

3. AS (2021) contribution to GCE Qualification (2022)

For candidates who started their course in September 2020 and hope to achieve a GCE qualification level grade in Summer 2022, they will be awarded a grade based on their performance in their A2 units only.

4. Teaching Order

For candidates commencing their AS or A2 course in September 2021, it is recommended that, as far as possible, the units are delivered in numerical order in case of any further disruption to the academic year.