

GCE Biology

Specification Addendum

Exceptional Assessment Adaptations (for 2020–2021)

This addendum should be used in conjunction with the current specification

The table below details any temporary adaptations that have been made due to public health restrictions for Summer 2021.

Please note: This applies only to candidates entering in Summer 2021

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021
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 2020–2021
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	Remove requirement that candidates carry out practical work in order to collect evidence for AS internal assessment. Teachers provide experimental data which candidates use to write-up their internal assessment (lab-book). This will facilitate completion of the lab-book over the full academic year if practical work cannot be carried out due to PHA. Provide list of practicals being assessed in AS 3 practical theory exam to minimize the amount of practical preparation required.
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	Remove requirement that candidates complete the internal assessment element of A2 3 (lab book). Provide list of practicals being assessed in A2 3 practical theory exam to minimize the amount of practical preparation required.

For candidates who started their GCE course in September 2019 and hope to achieve a GCE qualification level grade in Summer 2021, they will be awarded a grade based on their performance in their A2 units only.

If a candidate decides they wish to re-enter for the corresponding AS units, they will be awarded the higher of two options:

- a) the grade based on the outcome of the A2 exams; or
- b) the grade based on the outcome of the AS and A2 exams together.

Candidates who commenced their course in September 2019 and wish to re-enter AS units must enter for all AS units.

For candidates commencing their GCE course in September 2020, 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.