

# GCSE 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; and
- any temporary adaptations that have been made due to public health restrictions.

**Please note: This applies only to candidates who started their GCSE course in September 2020 and are cashing-in at qualification level in Summer 2022**

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2021–2022
<b>Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity</b>	External written examination  Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.  Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins	35%	No changes
<b>Unit 2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health</b>	Externally written examination  Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations.  Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 30 mins	40%	No changes

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2021–2022
<b>Unit 3: Practical skills</b>	<b>Booklet A</b>  Students carry out two externally marked pre-release practicals in the final year of study.  Foundation and Higher Tiers: 2 hours	7.5%	This unit will be <b>eligible</b> for omission for candidates cashing in for the qualification level grade in Summer 2022.  This unit will still be available for any candidates wishing to be assessed in all units.
<b>Unit 3: Practical skills</b>	<b>Booklet B</b>  External written examination  Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context.  There are two tiers of entry  Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour	17.5%	

For those students who started their GCSE course in September 2020 and are due to cash in the full GCSE in Summer 2022, should they choose to sit all units of the GCSE, 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.

For candidates commencing their GCSE 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.