

# GCSE Biology

## Specification Addendum

### Exceptional Assessment Adaptations (for 2020–2021)

**This addendum should be used in conjunction with the current specification**

The table below shows the units available for Summer 2021 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 2019 and are cashing-in at qualification level in Summer 2021**

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021
<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%	This unit will be <b>eligible</b> for omission for candidates cashing in for the qualification level grade in Summer 2021.  This unit will still be available for any candidates wishing to be assessed in all units.
<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

<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weightings</b>	<b>Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021</b>
<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%	Candidates observe a live teacher demonstration in place of completing the experiments themselves due to public health concerns. Further guidance will follow.
<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%	No changes to the assessment. CCEA will provide a list of practicals being assessed in this booklet to minimise the amount of practical preparation required.

For those students who started their GCSE course in September 2019 and are due to cash in the full GCSE in Summer 2021 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 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.