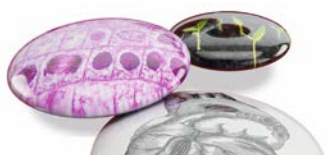
Switching to OCR A from AQA

The content within the OCR Biology A specification covers the 'Big Ideas' of biology and will be very familiar. We've laid it out in a logical progression to support co-teaching the AS level and teaching the A level in a linear way.

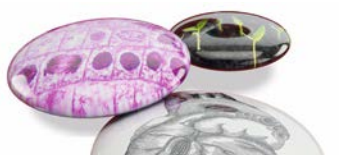
OCR Biology A	AQA
Module 1: Practical skills Planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation Plus all the skills to be covered in the Practical Endorsement	The same practical skills, as mandated by the DfE, are listed in Chapters 7 and 8 of the AQA specification
Module 2: Foundations in Biology • Cell structure • Biological molecules • Nucleotides and nucleic acids • Enzymes • Biological membranes • Cell division, diversity and organisation	**3.1 Biological molecules** (all sub-sections: monomers and polymers; carbohydrates; lipids; proteins, nucleic acids; ATP; water; inorganic ions) **3.2 Cells** (3 of the 4 sub-sections: cell structure; all cells arise from other cells; transport across cell membranes) **3.4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms** (3 of the 7 sub-sections: DNA, genes and chromosomes; DNA and protein synthesis; Genetic diversity can arise as a result of mutation or during meiosis) **3.8 The control of gene expression** (1 of the 4 sub-sections: Alteration of the sequence of bases in DNA can alter the structure of proteins)
Module 3: Exchange and Transport • Exchange surfaces • Transport in animals • Transport in plants	**3.3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment** (3 of the 4 sub-sections: surface area to volume ratio; gas exchange; mass transport)

OCR Biology A	AQA
Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease • Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system • Biodiversity • Classification and evolution	**3.2 Cells** (1 of the 4 sub-sections: Cell recognition and the immune system) **3.4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms** (4 of the 7 sub-sections: Genetic diversity and adaptation; species and taxonomy; Biodiversity within a community; investigating diversity)
Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy • Communication and homeostasis • Excretion • Neuronal communication • Hormonal communication • Plant and animal responses • Photosynthesis • Respiration	**3.5 Energy transfers in and between organisms** (2 of the 4 sub-sections: photosynthesis; respiration) **3.6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments** (all sub-sections: stimuli, both internal and external, are detected and lead to a response; nervous coordination; skeletal muscles; homeostasis)
Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems • Cellular control • Patterns of inheritance • Manipulating genomes • Cloning and biotechnology • Ecosystems • Populations and sustainability	**3.5 Energy transfers in and between organisms** (2 of the 4 sub-sections: energy and ecosystems; nutrient cycles) **3.7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems** (all sub-sections: inheritance; populations; evolution may lead to speciation; populations in ecosystems) **3.8 The control of gene expression** (3 of the 4 sub-sections: Gene expression is controlled by a number of features; using genome projects; gene technologies allow the study and alteration of gene function allowing a better understanding of organism function and the design of new industrial and medical processes)



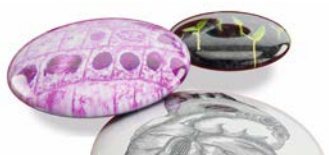
OCR Biology A	AQA
Appendix 5d: Mathematical requirements • Arithmetic and numerical computation • Handling data • Algebra • Graphs • Geometry and trigonometry	**Chapter 6: Mathematical requirements and exemplifications** • Arithmetic and numerical computation • Handling data • Algebra • Graphs • Geometry and trigonometry

Note: one major topic present in the AQA specification does not appear in the OCR A specification: ***3.3.3 Digestion and absorption****.*



Assessment

OCR Biology A	AQA
AS Paper 1: Breadth in Biology, Modules 1-4 50% of AS Written paper 1hr 30 minutes 70 marks Section A multiple choice questions, 20 marks. Section B short structured questions, covering problem solving, calculations, practical and theory, 50 marks.	**AS Paper 1: Topics 1-4 & practical skills** 50% of AS Written paper 1hr 30 minutes 75 marks 65 marks short answer questions, 10 marks comprehension.
AS Paper 2: Depth in Biology, Modules 1-4 50% of AS Written paper 1hr 30 minutes 70 marks Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.	**AS Paper 2: Topics 1-4 & practical skills** 50% of AS Written paper 1 hr 30 minutes 75 marks 65 marks short answer questions, 10 marks extended response.
A Level Paper 1: Biological processes, Modules 1, 2, 3 & 5 37% of A level Written paper 2 hours 15 minutes 100 marks Section A multiple choice questions, 15 marks. Section B short structured questions, and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory 85 marks.	**A Level Paper 1: Topics 1-4 & practical skills** 35% of A level Written paper 2 hours 91 marks 76 marks short and long answer questions, 15 marks extended answers.
A Level Paper 2: Biological diversity, Modules 1, 2, 4 & 6 37% of A level Written paper 2 hours 15 minutes 100 marks Section A multiple choice questions, 15 marks. Section B short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving,	**A Level Paper 2: Topics 5-8 & practical skills** 35% of A level Written paper 2 hours 91 marks 76 marks short and long answer questions, 15 marks extended answers.



OCR Biology A	AQA
calculations, practical and theory 85 marks.	
A Level Paper 3: Unified Biology, Modules 1-6 26% of A level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 70 marks Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.	**A Level Paper 3: Topics 1-8 & practical skills** 30% of A level Written paper 2 hours 78 marks 38 marks structured questions. 15 marks analysis of experimental data 25 marks essay question.