Switching to OCR B from Eduqas

Introduction

We are really excited about our GCE Biology B qualification. Whether taking on the AS or the full A Level, this fantastic course is a great qualification for those with an interest in the subject. Why choose Biology B?

- The 'Big Ideas' of Biology are covered
- Popular and engaging topics from previous Biology and Human Biology qualifications are included
- Biology B is enjoyable to teach and learn, giving students the essentials for biology-related higher education courses as well as many transferable, marketable skills
- There are many opportunities for 'hands-on' practical, linking to our flexible practical assessment model
- The biological topics are presented in a clear and logical linear order with practical and maths opportunities highlighted.

Textbook comparison

We have not included a textbook comparison in this switching document as there are a number of textbooks available for each exam board's qualifications, and the order and organisation of content within these textbooks can vary. However, similarities in content across exam boards mean that it is possible to use any textbook for the core content of any board's qualifications. The specification can be used to identify relevant content, as well as that which is not required for a specific qualification. If you need further clarification on any specific content, you can email our Subject Advisor team at science@ocr.org.uk.

Support from OCR

We offer a range of support to teachers of our qualifications. This includes:

- A dedicated Subject Advisor team, with teaching and assessment experience, available to answer your queries and support your delivery of our qualifications. You can contact us by email at science@ocr.org.uk or by phone on 01223 553998.
- Monthly newsletters highlighting new resources, CPD courses, and other news about our qualifications.

- An online scheme of work builder which helps you create a bespoke scheme of work using the extensive range of resources we have provided for each specification.
- A wide range of support materials, including handbooks covering practical and mathematical skills, delivery guides, lesson elements, practical activity suggestions, candidate exemplar resources, and more.
- Free access to ExamBuilder, our mock assessment service that allows you to create your own bespoke assessments.
- Termly regional Science Teacher Networks, giving you the opportunity to meet with other teachers and our Subject Advisors.
- CPD courses, including courses for teachers new to teaching our qualifications and courses on outcomes from previous examination series to help inform your teaching.
- You can also follow and interact with our Subject Advisors on Twitter (@ocr_science).

Key differences

OCR Biology B	Eduqas Biology
Flexible practical assessment allows you to use your own practical activities or select from our suggested activities	Specified practical work identified in the relevant parts of the specification.
Practical skills take centre stage, detailed in full at the start of the specification in a separate module for **clarity** and prominence	Required practicals linked to practical skills in an appendix in the specification.
All **28 maths skills** covered in our free maths skills handbook and further supported with our online 'Maths for Biology' resources	Subset of skills covered by student and teacher guides

Content

We've laid it out to support the co-teaching of the AS and A level and provide a logical linear progression through the A level.

OCR Biology B	Eduqas Biology A Level
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, apply to the Eduqas qualification
Module 2: Cells, chemicals for life, transport and gas exchange • Cells and microscopy • Water and its importance in plants and animals • Proteins and enzymes • Nucleic acids • The heart and monitoring heart function • Transport systems in mammals • Transport systems in plants • Gas exchange in mammals and plants	**Core Concepts** • Chemical elements are joined together to form biological compounds • Cell structure and organisation • Cell membranes and transport • Biological reactions are regulated by enzymes • Nucleic acids and their functions
Module 3: Cell division, development and disease control • The developing cell • The developing individual • The development of species • Pathogenic microorganisms • The immune system • Controlling communicable disease • The cellular basis of cancer and treatment • Respiratory diseases and treatment	**Component 1: Energy for Life** • Importance of ATP • Photosynthesis • Respiration • Microbiology • Population size and ecosystems • Human impact on the environment

OCR Biology B	Eduqas Biology A Level
Module 4: Energy, reproduction and populations • Cellular respiration • Metabolism and exercise • Fertility and assisted reproduction • Effects of ageing on reproduction • Photosynthesis, food production and management of the environment • The impact of population increase • Plant reproduction	**Component 2: Continuity of Life** • All organisms are related through their evolutionary history • Genetic information is copied and passed on to daughter cells • Sexual reproduction in humans • Sexual reproduction in plants • Inheritance • Variation and evolution • Application of reproduction and genetics
Module 5: Genetics, control and homeostasis • Patterns of inheritance • Population genetics and epigenetics • Gene technologies • The nervous system • Monitoring visual function • Effects of ageing on nervous system • Homeostasis • Hormonal control of blood glucose • Kidney function and malfunction	**Component 3: Requirements for Life** • Adaptations for gas exchange • Adaptations for transport • Adaptations for nutrition • Homeostasis and the kidney • The nervous system Choice of one option from three: • Immunology and disease • Human musculoskeletal anatomy • Neurobiology and behaviour
Appendix 5d: Mathematical requirements • Arithmetic and numerical computation • Handling data • Algebra • Graphs • Geometry and trigonometry	**Appendix C: Mathematical requirements and exemplification** • Arithmetic and numerical computation • Handling data • Algebra • Graphs • Geometry and trigonometry

Assessment

OCR Biology B	Eduqas
AS Paper 1: Foundations of Biology **Modules 1-3** 50% of AS Written paper 1 hour 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: Basic biochemistry and cell organisation** 50% of AS Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks Short and longer structured questions. .
AS Paper 2: Biology in Depth, Modules 1-3 50% of AS Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 70 marks Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.	**AS Paper 2: Biodiversity and physiology of body systems** 50% of AS Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks Short and longer structured questions.
A Level Paper 1: Fundamentals of Biology **Modules 1-5** 41% of A level Written paper 2 hours 15 minutes 110 marks Section A multiple choice questions, 30 marks. Section B short structured questions, and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory 80 marks.	**A Level Paper 1: Energy for Life** 33% of A level Written paper 2 hours 100 marks Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.
A Level Paper 2: Scientific Literacy in Biology **Modules 1-5** 37% of A level Written paper 2 hours 15 minutes 100 marks Advance notice article (underpins 20-25 marks).	**A Level Paper 2: Continuity of Life** 33% of A level Written paper 2 hours 100 marks Short structured questions and extended

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Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.	response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.
A Level Paper 3: Practical Skills in Biology Modules 1–5 22% of A level Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory.	**A Level Paper 3: Requirements for life (including optional topics)** 33% of A level Written paper 2 hours 100 marks Short structured questions and extended response questions, problem solving, calculations, practical and theory. Section A: 80 marks Section B: 20 marks in each of 3 options

Want to switch to OCR?

If you're an OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.

Your exams officer can complete an expression of interest form which enables us to provide appropriate support to them. When you're ready to enter your students, you just need to speak to your exams officer to:

1. Make estimated entries by 10 October so we can send you any early release materials, prepare the question papers and ensure we've got enough examiners.
2. Make final entries by 21 February

If you are not already an OCR-approved centre please refer your exams officer to the centre approval section of our admin guide.

Practical Endorsement Administration (A Level only)

The requirements for the practical endorsement have been set by the Department for Education and Ofqual working with all awarding bodies to ensure a common approach. Just as when following the Eduqas A Level Biology qualification, your A Level students studying OCR Biology B will need to demonstrate to you, their teacher(s), that they are consistently and routinely competent in each of the skills and techniques defined for A Level Biologists.

You will need to:

- Keep records of carrying out practical activities as well as your assessment of competence of each of your students in each of these skills and techniques. This can be done, if you wish, using our OCR tracker spreadsheet.
- Designate a 'Lead Teacher' who will need to make sure that they have completed the online Lead Teacher training
- Email us at science@ocr.org.uk to let us know you've started teaching the qualification. This will make sure we have up-to-date information on your centre for planning monitoring visits. When a monitoring visit takes place at your centre for Biology it will be carried out by an OCR-appointed monitor applying the criteria agreed across all awarding organisations. Up-to-date details on the monitoring process are available on the Positive about practical page.

Students need to keep records of their practical work, which can be done in whatever format best suits you and your students, be it a lab book, a loose leaf folder or an electronic record. Help and guidance are available from our Positive about practical page.

Next steps

1. Familiarise yourself with the specification, sample assessment materials and teaching resources on the OCR Biology B qualification page of the OCR website.

2. Browse the online delivery guides for teaching ideas and use the Scheme of Work builder to create your personal scheme of work.

3. Get a login for our secure extranet, Interchange – allows you to access the latest past/practice papers and use our results analysis service, Active Results.

4. Sign up to receive subject updates by email.

5. Sign up to attend a training event or take part in webinars on specific topics running throughout the year and/or our Q&A webinar sessions every half term.

6. Attend one of our free teacher network events that are run in each region every term. These are hosted at the end of the school day in a school or college near you, with teachers sharing best practice and subject advisors on hand to lead discussion and answer questions.

7. Follow us on Twitter (@ocr_science) where you can have discussions with other teachers and OCR Subject Advisors, and where new resources are developed and posted first.

