

BIOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The public assessment of this subject is based on the Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6) Biology jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Candidates have to refer to the section on ‘Curriculum Framework’ in this Guide for the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they are required to demonstrate in the assessment. Candidates are expected to have a general knowledge of the materials contained in the Science Curriculum (Secondary 1-3). The mathematical skills required in the assessment are mainly based on those covered in the Compulsory Part of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Mathematics Curriculum.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the public assessment of Biology are to evaluate candidates’ ability to:

1. recall and show understanding of facts, concepts and principles of biology, and the relationships between different topic areas in the curriculum framework;
2. apply biological knowledge, concepts and principles to explain phenomena and observations, and to solve problems;
3. formulate working hypotheses, and plan and perform tests for them;
4. demonstrate practical skills related to the study of biology;
5. present data in various forms, such as tables, graphs, charts, drawings, diagrams, and transpose them from one form into another;
6. analyse and interpret both numerical and non-numerical data in forms such as continuous prose, diagrams, photographs, charts and graphs – and make logical deductions and inferences and draw appropriate conclusions;
7. evaluate evidence and detect errors;
8. generate ideas; select, synthesise and communicate ideas and information clearly, precisely and logically;
9. demonstrate understanding of the applications of biology to daily life and its contributions to the modern world;
10. show awareness of the ethical, moral, social, economic and technological implications of biology, and critically evaluate biology-related issues; and
11. make suggestions, choices and judgments about issues affecting the individual, society and the environment.

MODE OF ASSESSMENT

The public assessment of Biology will consist of a public examination component and a school-based assessment component as outlined in the following table:

Component		Weighting	Duration
Public Examination	Paper 1 Compulsory part of the curriculum	60%	2 hours 30 minutes
	Paper 2 Elective part of the curriculum	20%	1 hour
School-based Assessment (SBA)		20%	

PUBLIC EXAMINATION

Paper 1 comprises two sections: A and B. Section A consists of multiple-choice questions and carries 18% of the subject mark. Section B includes short questions, structured questions and an essay question, and it carries 42% of the subject mark. Candidates have to attempt **all** questions in Paper 1.

Paper 2 consists of structured questions set on the four elective topics of the curriculum. Candidates are to attempt questions from any **two** of the four electives. Paper 2 carries 20% of the subject mark.

SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT (SBA)

School-based assessment (SBA) is compulsory for **all** school candidates. In the SBA of Biology, candidates are required to perform a stipulated amount of practical work, which may include scientific investigations, laboratory work, and fieldwork, etc. In S5 and S6, they will be assessed in two ability areas: practical skills abilities (A) and reporting of investigative work (B). Ability area A carries 8% of the subject mark, while ability area B carries 12% of the mark.

The table below summarises the percentage weighting and the minimum number of assessments required in S5 and S6 for the different areas of the SBA:

		Ability area A (Practical skills abilities)	Ability area B (Reporting of investigative work)
Weighting in subject		8%	12%
Minimum number of assessments	S5	1	1
	S6	1	1

For monitoring and authentication purposes, candidates are required to keep good custody of all their work in SBA until the publication of the HKDSE examination results.

Private candidates need not complete the SBA component. Their subject result will be based entirely on their public examination result.

The detailed requirements, regulations, assessment criteria, guidelines and methods of assessment are provided in the SBA Handbook for HKDSE Biology published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority.