

Recommended Prior Knowledge

At GCE level it is expected that students have a general appreciation of Biology as a Science and have experience of the natural world as being made up range of organisms and habitats. However there is no formal knowledge needed because the specification teaches the concept of life, its processes and consequences from scratch.

General Resources

a) Online Resources: The following are generally useful sites and are referred to in places in the specification where they are directly useful:

<http://www.bioschool.co.uk> lots of images, power points etc

<http://www.biology-online.org/dictionary.asp> biological definitions

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/biology/> BBC revision site

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/webwise/spinneret/> Revision site produced by a teacher

<http://www.purchon.com/biology/revision.htm> Revision site produced by a teacher

http://www.s-cool.co.uk/topic_index.asp?subject_id=17 commercial revision site

<http://www.revisioncentral.co.uk/gcse/biology/> commercial revision site

http://www.revisiontime.com/gcse_biology.html commercial revision site

<http://www.longleypublications.co.uk/biology/KS4Biology/#> commercial revision site

b) Several pieces of software exist for biology some of these are:

<http://www.newbyte.com/us/>

http://www.new-media.co.uk/products_mss.php

<http://www.cybersoftware.co.uk/gcsebiology.html>

<http://www.rm.com/Secondary/Products/Product.asp?cref=PD1528>

<http://www.microsoft.com/products/encarta/default.aspx>

Other Resources**Textbooks**

There are several textbooks available which are useful and there are recommendations made in the specification on pg 20. However thi:

- D.G Mackean (1987) "Introduction to Human and Social Biology" Second Edition ISBN 0 71 954167 0
This is a very popular text and possibly possessed by many Centres, it is very detailed and has more than enough content for the specification
- P. Gadd (1993) "Human and Social Biology for the Tropics" fourth Edition ISBN 0 33 355280 6
This is a newer book and it has a much simpler format than Mackean, its content has been specifically selected to "meet the requirements of the syllabus of the Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate in Human and Social Biology at GCE O Level" It lives up to this claim admirably and gives students the basic knowledge for this specification.

Wherever possible both text's references have been used. There is no intention to indicate that other texts are unsuitable and if centres do possess other books the relevant material will need to be found in those.

Videos

"You are what you eat"

"Suckers" Project Icarus Ltd

"The Living Body" BBC production

"Human Body" Robert Winston Double Video

(http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00004CWQH/ref=ase_wwwlink-software-21/026-7871079-1955632)

UNITS

Suggested unit pairs	Unit (with Approx time allocation)	Specification titles	Outline of topic content	Syllabus references
A (19%)	1 (11%)	Characteristics of Living Organisms 8%	Define characteristics of life and of viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, flatworms and insects. Describing animal and plant cells. Investigating Osmosis and Diffusion. Define Active transport Define tissues and organs	1a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m.
		Plants, Food and Humans 3%	Describing photosynthesis and its role in the Carbon cycle. The Nitrogen cycle	2a,b,c,d,e.
	2 (8%)	Nutrition and Diet 8%	Sources and Uses of the major nutrients. Practical tests for Carbohydrates, Proteins and Fats. Sources and functions of	3a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,o

			<p>minerals (Ca and Fe) and their preservation in cooking</p> <p>Uses of water and the function of Fibre</p> <p>Balanced Diet and changes with Age, pregnancy and breast-feeding.</p> <p>Malnutrition and breast feeding.</p>	
B (19%)	3 (11%)	Digestion and Absorption of Food 11%	<p>Physical digestion and tooth structure.</p> <p>Structure of the Alimentary Canal.</p> <p>Enzyme activity and temp. and pH.</p> <p>Sites of digestive enzymes and their functions.</p> <p>Water absorption and the Colon.</p> <p>Egestion</p>	4a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q. 7k
	4 (8%)	Blood and the Circulatory System 8%	<p>Blood cells and plasma structure and function.</p> <p>Clotting and platelets.</p> <p>Structure of the Heart.</p> <p>The pacemaker and heart problems.</p> <p>Blood vessels structure and function.</p> <p>Lymph and tissue fluid.</p>	5a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o.
C (19%)	5 (8%)	Breathing and Respiration 8%	<p>Breathing process and the role of pressure and volume changes, mouth to mouth resuscitation.</p> <p>Vital capacity and change in breathing rate.</p> <p>Role of respiration in production of energy and energy requiring activities.</p> <p>Cigarettes and effect on health of the smoker and a foetus</p>	6a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q.
	6 (11%)	Skeleton, Muscle and Movement 5%	<p>Structure of the various materials in the skeletal system.</p> <p>Movement of joints.</p> <p>The arm and movement</p>	7a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j ref to 7k taught in units 3 and 7

		Homeostasis 6%	Antagonistic muscle action. Ref to peristalsis and the eye muscles Structure of the kidney and its role in excretion and water control. Sweating and water loss, skin structure and loss of heat, control of body temp. Control of sugar in the blood, function of insulin and glucagon and the role of the pancreas and the liver	8a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o.
D (19%)	7 (8%)	The Senses, Nervous System, Hormones and Coordination 8%	Stimuli reception and reflexes. Structure and functioning of the eye in focusing and image formation. Hormone functioning ref to reproduction in unit 8 and insulin in unit 6. Comparing nervous and hormonal responses. Drug dependence and alcohol and heroin effects.	9a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,r,s,t,u,v. ref to 10e,f and 8m,n,o. covered in Units 8 and 6
	8 (11%)	Reproduction and the Continuity of life 11%	Male and female reproductive systems. The menstrual cycle and the role of hormones. (ref to 9p Sexual reproduction and development of foetus, role of the placenta and amnion Birth. Genes, DNA, alleles and chromosome and ribosome function. Mitosis and meiosis functions. Genetic symbols and monohybrid cross and inheritance of sex.	10a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,t,u. ref to 9p

E (21%)	9 (11%)	Health and Disease 8%	Definition of types of diseases. Distinction between signs and symptoms. Signs, pathogens, transmission and control of 9 specified illnesses.	11a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o Ref to 12a,b,j,f,k.
		Control of Disease 3%	Define antibiotics and ref to gonorrhoea. Distinguish between Antiseptics and disinfectants, investigate disinfectants and bacterial growth. Life cycles of Housefly and Anopheles mosquito. Ref to control methods used in the diseases studied above.	12g,h,i,k. ref to 12a,b,c,d,e,f,j. taught in 11h,i,k,l,m,n,
	10 (10%)	Immunity and Immunisation 2%	Define; immunity, active, passive, natural and artificial immunity. Discussion of WHO and smallpox and TB	13a,b,c,d,e. and ref to 11l
		Community Health 5%	Sewage and the pit latrine ref to Unit 9 and control of illnesses. Treatment of sewage. Treatment of water. Problems of waste disposal and the various methods possible	14a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i, 14j,k,l,m. ref to 12k and 11k
		Pollution 3%	Motor fumes and Carbon monoxide, lead and nitrogen oxides. Effect of Lead on body Sewage, chemical waste run-off and oil pollution.	15a,b,c,d

TEACHING ORDER

Although there is no definitive order to the teaching of the various topics there are some general points that make the teaching more efficient

- Topics are of varying sizes with reference to content so have been grouped together to make 5 roughly equal amounts, if they were taught in a different combination they may not maintain this equality.
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- Health and Disease and Control of Disease cross reference to each other and so would be more efficiently taught together
- Community Health is covered in the above and so should follow them
- Some units do refer to earlier work and if a different order was adopted then this would have to be borne in mind if it was a problem