

Assessment Specifications

Level 2 Biology 2025

Published in October 2024

General information

Domain:	Biology
Standards:	91156, 91157, 91159
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Printed paper

[Biology subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

Candidates may be required to interpret diagrams and new information, draw diagrams, and write responses of one or more paragraphs.

Some questions may be resource-based.

Candidates may use annotated diagrams to show evidence where appropriate.

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91156
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of life processes at the cellular level
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4

Understanding of the structure of DNA, and the meaning of semi-conservative replication as part of cell division, is expected.

Factors affecting the processes may include both direct and indirect availability of resources.

Photosynthesis includes both the light-independent and light-dependent processes.

Cell respiration includes both anaerobic and aerobic respiration.

Factors that affect enzyme activity within cells may include temperature, pH, substrate concentration, co-enzymes, co-factors, and enzyme inhibitors.

Similarities and differences between cells may relate to the overall functioning of the organism and justifying the reasons for these similarities and differences.

Movement of materials may also include facilitated diffusion.

Standard:	91157
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4

Mutation as a source of new alleles requires candidates to understand the difference between gametic and somatic mutations.

Candidates may be required to draw and or interpret a Punnett square for any of the specified monohybrid or dihybrid inheritance patterns, and calculate the expected proportions of genotype and phenotype (expressed as a ratio, fraction, percentage, or decimal).

Understanding of linked genes is considered to include sex linkage.

Understanding of genetic drift is considered to include founder effect and genetic bottlenecks.

Standard:	91159
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of gene expression
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4

For nucleic acid structure and the nature of the genetic code, the bases are adenine, thymine, guanine, cytosine, and uracil; the relationship between them should be understood.

Examples such as sickle cells and cystic fibrosis in humans could be used to illustrate gene mutations.