VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Key	
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VCE Biology
~~2017–2021~~ 2020

Written examination – End of year

Adjusted examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours and 30 minutes writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 60 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Biology Adjusted Study Design for 2020 only* ~~*2017–2021*~~ (Units 3 and 4) is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge that underpins the outcomes in Units 3 and 4, and the key science skills found in the section on 'Cross-study specifications' in the adjusted study design (pages 10 and 11), are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections.

Section A will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions worth 1 mark each and will be worth a total of 40 marks.

Section B will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, including questions with multiple parts. The number of questions may vary from year to year. Section B will be worth a total of 80 marks.

The examination may include questions that refer to visual and/or written material, including scenarios and/or experiments.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 120.

For use in 2020 ONLY

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Answers to Section A are to be recorded on the answer sheet provided for multiple-choice questions.

Answers to Section B are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Biology examination:

- *VCE Biology Adjusted Study Design for 2020 only ~~2017–2021~~* (Units 3 and 4)
- *VCE Biology – Advice for teachers 2017–2021* (includes assessment advice)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

~~During the 2017–2021 accreditation period for~~ In 2020 the VCE Biology examination~~s~~ will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. ~~Each~~ The examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4, and the key science skills found in the section on 'Cross-study specifications' in the adjusted study design (pages 10 and 11).

Examination questions may relate to one or more areas of study and may integrate research methodologies and ethical principles. The weighting of examination questions will reflect approximately the weighting of the outcomes in the adjusted study design.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the VCE Biology 'Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect ~~until the current accreditation period is over~~.

Answers to multiple-choice questions are provided at the end of the sample examination.

Answers to other questions are not provided.

Please note: The sample examination has not been amended to reflect the adjustments made to the study design in 2020.

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