Information about the 2013 examination

The examination will be based on the Biology Senior External Syllabus 2006. It will consist of two papers. Paper One will have 10 minutes perusal/planning time and 2 hours 30 minutes working time. Paper Two will have 10 minutes perusal/planning time and 2 hours working time.

The questions will be set out within the five topics listed in the syllabus. Each paper will contain short-response questions that will assess Understanding biology (UB) and Investigating biology (IB) and extended-response questions that will assess Evaluating biological issues (EBI).

The EBI question topics will be published in a subject notice later this year, to enable candidates to research each topic prior to the examination. Candidates will be able to bring their research notes into the examination room.

**Paper One**

Paper One will consist of three parts:
- Part A — Cell structure and function
- Part B — Physiology of organisms
- Part C — Organisms and ecosystems.

**Paper Two**

Paper Two will consist of two parts:
- Part A — Continuity of life
- Part B — Evolution and diversity.

**Experimental investigations**

Candidates will not be required to bring to the examination actual data collected as evidence of participation in experimental investigation learning experiences. They will, however, be expected to demonstrate a sound understanding of the scientific methods and investigative processes that they have used during the year while studying biology. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the experiments they designed, performed, evaluated and reflected on. It is also expected that they will have a thorough understanding of correct laboratory procedures and protocols consistent with the syllabus.

**Level of achievement**

Each candidate’s level of achievement will be determined by applying the syllabus standards to an overall assessment of responses across both Paper One and Paper Two.
Enquiries

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