



GCSE Equivalency Biology Exams - How we created these exams

Overview

We have created 4 Exams and 1 sample paper for GCSE Biology Equivalency, based on the [Edexcel iGCSE Biology Sample Papers](#) provided on their website, along with the content specified in the [Edexcel \(iGCSE\) Biology \(9-1\) \(4BI1\) Specification](#).

The table below summarises the key points relevant to your A Star GCSE Biology Equivalency Exam.

| Format | Description |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Exam type | Online or paper based |
| Exam location | Sat at home/work - invigilated online |
| Exam availability | All year round |
| Exam structure | 1 paper |
| Exam timing | 2 hours |
| Number of marks | 100 marks |
| Tiers | None |
| Level | 9-1 |
| Exam specification based on | Edexcel (iGCSE) Biology (9-1) (4BI1) |
| Exam content coverage | Questions may come from any topic across the specification (including the points in bold) |
| Question types | Long written-answer questions, short-answer questions, multiple choice questions, matching questions and calculations |
| Additional equipment needed | An appropriate scientific calculator |

Format and Marks

Our exams consist of only 1 paper, instead of 2. The paper is a total of 100 marks, meaning that the total marks has been reduced from 180 marks, as seen on the Edexcel iGCSE Biology sample papers, to 100 marks. However all assessment objectives are maintained from the full specification, as well as topic coverage.

Further, each paper contains a mix of question types, including long written-answer questions, short-answer questions, multiple choice questions, matching questions and calculations.

Some questions are standalone questions, whereas other questions consist of multiple parts and can require using the answer to a previous part of a question, or not. These part questions may vary in the level of demand.

This corresponds to what is seen on the Edexcel sample papers.

Across each paper, we have aimed to have a similar coverage of questions with different numbers of marks of that of the Edexcel sample papers, so there are a mixture of 1-6 mark single questions (i.e. not the total of a question containing multiple parts).

Distribution of Topics and Skills

Content from any part of the specification can be assessed in each paper, including content that is in bold and has a 'B' reference in the Edexcel specification. Each exam has been designed to match the approximate percentage breakdown of Assessment Objectives (AO):

| Assessment Objectives | | iGCSE |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| AO1 | Knowledge and understanding of biology | 38-42% |
| AO2 | Application of knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation of biology | 38-42% |
| AO3 | Experimental skills, analysis and evaluation of data and methods in biology | 19-21% |
| Total | | 100% |

For each paper, we have aimed to increase the demand as the student progresses through the paper.

Further, each paper consists of around 10% of marks that require the use of mathematical skills to Level 2 or above.

Assessment Difficulty

We closely monitor all exam results, and how these change over time, to ensure our exams match the difficulties of the specifications they are benchmarked against and so the grade boundaries are set accordingly. Below are the current grade boundaries for our GCSE Biology Equivalency exams:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Level | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Mark | 84 | 75 | 66 | 60 | 54 | 48 | N/A | N/A | N/A |