

Summary of Biology HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements from 2010

In December 2008, the Board of Studies approved changes to the examination specifications and assessment requirements for a number of courses. These changes will be implemented for the 2010 HSC cohort. Details of the Board's decisions are available on the Board's website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

The HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for Biology are outlined below.

Outline of HSC examination specifications

A written examination of three hours plus 5 minutes reading time.

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I Part A</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Objective response questions	20
<i>Section I Part B</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Short-answer questions	55
<i>Section II (Options)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is one question on each Option. Each question will consist of short-answer partsStudents answer the question on the Option they have studied	25
	100

Changes from current examination specifications

In Section I, the mark value of the objective response items is increased from 15 marks to 20 marks and the mark value of the short-answer questions is decreased from 60 marks to 55 marks.

Outline of internal assessment requirements

There will be three to five assessment tasks comprising the following components and weightings.

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">the history, nature, and practice of biology, applications and uses of biology and their implications for society and the environment, and current issues, research and developments in biologycell ultrastructure and processes, biological diversity, environmental interactions, mechanisms of inheritance and biological evolution	40
Skills in planning and conducting first-hand investigations, gathering and processing first-hand data, gathering and processing relevant information from secondary sources	30
Skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">communicating information and understandingdeveloping scientific thinking and problem-solving techniquesworking individually and in teams	30
	100