

SCOPE OF COMMON TESTS – Grade 10: 2021	
TERM 1	
MARCH COMMON TEST	
GRADE	10
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	ONE PAPER ONLY
DURATION OF THE PAPER	1 HOUR
TOTAL MARKS	60
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [20 marks] SECTION B: Short Questions: 20 + 20 = [40 marks]
EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS	
1. Organic and inorganic compounds	
2. Microscope	
3. Cell structure	
4. Cell division	
TERM 2	
JUNE CONTROLLED TEST	
GRADE	10
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	ONE PAPER ONLY
DURATION OF THE PAPER	1 HOUR
TOTAL MARKS	60
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [20 marks] SECTION B: Short Questions: 20 + 20 = [40 marks]
EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS	
1. Plant and Animal tissues	
2. Organs – Leaf	
3. Support and transport in plants	
4. Support and transport in animals	
TERM 3	
SEPTEMBER COMMON TEST	
GRADE	10
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	ONE PAPER ONLY
DURATION OF THE PAPER	1 HOUR
TOTAL MARKS	60
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [20 marks] SECTION B: Short Questions: 20 + 20 = [40 marks]
EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS	
1. Environmental Studies – Biospheres to Ecosystems	
2. Biodiversity and Classification	

FINAL EXAMINATION STRUCTURE OF THE PAPER

- Paper 1 and Paper 2
- 150 marks each paper
- 2½ hours each paper

**Format of a Life Sciences Examination Paper
(Grades 10-12)**

Sections	Type of questions	Marks
A	A variety of short answer questions, objective questions for example MCQ, terminology, columns/statement and items, data-response	50
B	A variety of question types. TWO questions of 50 marks each divided into 2 – 4 subsections	2 x 50

Cognitive Level Weightings

A	B	C	D
Knowing Science	Understanding Science	Applying scientific knowledge	Evaluating, analysing and synthesising scientific knowledge
40%	25%	20%	15%

Degrees of Difficulty Weightings

Easy	Moderate	Difficult	Very difficult
30%	40%	25%	5%

Degree of difficulty of examination/test questions

30%	40%	25%	5%
Easy for the average learner to answer.	Moderately challenging for the average learner to answer.	Difficult for the average learner to answer.	Very difficult for the average learner to answer. The skills and knowledge required to answer the question allows for level 7 learners (extremely high-achieving/ability learners) to be discriminated from other high ability/proficiency learners.

Degrees of Difficulty

Framework for thinking about question difficulty

Content/concept difficulty	Stimulus difficulty	Task difficulty	Expected response difficulty
Content/concept difficulty indexes the difficulty in the subject matter, topic or conceptual knowledge assessed or required. In this judgment of the item/question, difficulty exists in the academic and conceptual demands that questions make and/or the grade level boundaries of the various 'elements' of domain/subject knowledge (topics, facts, concepts, principles and procedures associated with the subject).	Stimulus difficulty refers to the difficulty of the linguistic features of the question (linguistic complexity) and the challenge that candidates face when they attempt to read, interpret and understand the words and phrases in the question AND when they attempt to read and understand the information or 'text' or source material (diagrams, tables and graphs, pictures, cartoons, passages, etc.) that accompanies the question.	Task difficulty refers to the difficulty that candidates confront when they try to formulate or produce an answer.	Expected response difficulty refers to difficulty imposed by examiners in a mark scheme and memorandum . This location of difficulty is more applicable to 'constructed' response questions, as opposed to 'selected' response questions (such as multiple choice, matching/true-false).

Examiners should analyse the items in their papers to ensure the paper is **not too easy** or **too difficult** even if the cognitive demand of the paper is according to the standard.

Topic Weightings for Grade 10

PAPER 1		PAPER 2	
TOPIC	MARKS	TOPIC	MARKS
T1: Chemistry of Life	33	T2: Transport systems in mammals	32
T1: Basic units of life	19	T3: Biosphere to Ecosystems	54
T1: Cell Division , Mitosis	19	T4: Biodiversity and classification	21
T2: Plant and Animal tissues	28	T4:History of life on earth	43
T2: Plant organs(leaf)	9	Total	150
T2: Support and transport Systems : Plants	23		
T2: Support sytems : Animals	19		
Total	150		

Topic Weightings for Grade 11

PAPER 1		PAPER 2	
TOPIC	MARKS	TOPIC	MARKS
T2: Energy transformation to sustain life: Photosynthesis	32	T1: Biodiversity and classification of micro-organisms	29
T2: Animal nutrition	32	T1: Biodiversity in plants and reproduction	29
T2: Energy transformation: Respiration	22	T1: Biodiversity of animals	18
T3: Gas exchange	32	T3&4:Population ecology	37
Excretion in humans	32	T4:Human impact on the environment	37
Total	150	Total	150