

2015 HKDSE

Biology and Combined Science (Biology)

Exam Analysis



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1 Coverage

a Most topics in the curriculum are covered. More marks are allocated to the chapters (3rd edition) below:

Ch 3 Movement of substances across cell membrane

Ch 8 Transport in humans

Ch 10 Transpiration, transport and support in plants

~~**Ch 17**~~ Movement in humans

Ch 19 Ecosystems

Ch 25 Basic genetics

b Q6d in Biology Paper 1B (Q5d in Combined Science Section B) is set on nature of science (NOS). This question carries 2 marks.

c Q3b(iii) in Biology Paper 2 asked about pollution indicating organisms. This topic is deleted from the curriculum in EDB's Supplementary Document 2013 (which affects students taking the 2016 HKDSE examination).

d Relationship between Biology and Combined Science:

i In Combined Science Section A, Q22 appears only in this subject. Q4 is slightly different from Q5 in Biology Paper 1A and simplified. The other multiple-choice questions are common with Biology Paper 1A.

ii In Combined Science Section B, Q2b and Q4 are slightly different from those questions in Biology Paper 1B. The other conventional questions are common with Biology Paper 1B.

2 Level of difficulty

a The multiple-choice questions in 2015 HKDSE papers are easier than those in 2014 HKDSE papers. Q12, 15, 18, 22 and 32 in Biology Paper 1A (Q12, 14 and 15 in Combined Science Section A) are more challenging and may be set to differentiate students of different abilities.

b The conventional questions in 2015 and 2014 HKDSE papers are of similar level of difficulty. Q2c, 3d, 4c, 6d and 7c and 11 in Biology Paper 1B (Q2c, 3d, 5d and 6c in Combined Science Section B) are more challenging and may be set to differentiate students of different abilities.

c In Biology Paper 2, Q2a, Q2b, Q3b are comparatively more difficult.

3 Skills assessed

- a** The papers follow the trend of inclusion of questions related to school-based assessment (SBA) and a number of conventional questions in Section B require the skills for making scientific inquiries.

Making observations: Q2b, 9a and 9c in Biology; Q2b and 8a in Combined Science

Designing an experiment: Q7b and 7c in Biology; Q6b and 6c in Combined Science

Analysing data: Q6b in Biology; Q5b in Combined Science

- b** Photomicrographs of cells at different stages of the cell cycle and neuromuscular junctions (Q2 and 5 in Biology Paper 1B; Q2 in Combined Science Section B) are examined.
- c** Q3c, 4c, 5c and 11 in Biology Paper 1B (Q3c, 4c and 11 in Combined Science Section B) require good communication skills.

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