

Biology

FOR OCR

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Introduction

Cambridge OCR Advanced Sciences

The new *Cambridge OCR Advanced Sciences* course provides complete coverage of the revised OCR AS and A Level science specifications (Biology, Chemistry A and Physics A) for teaching from September 2008. There are two books for each subject – one covering AS and one covering A2. Some material has been drawn from the existing *Cambridge Advanced Sciences* books; however the majority is new.

The course has been developed in an innovative format, featuring Cambridge's new interactive PDFs on CD-ROM in the back of the books, and free access to a dedicated website. The CD-ROM provides additional material, including detailed objectives, hints on answering questions, and extension material. It also provides access to web-based e-learning activities (A Level and background revision from GCSE) to help students visualise abstract concepts, understand calculations and simulate scientific processes.

The books contain all the material required for teaching the specifications, and can be used either on their own or in conjunction with the interactive PDFs and the website.

In addition, *Teacher Resource CD-ROMs*, with book PDFs plus extra material such as worksheets, practical activities and tests, are available for each book. These CD-ROMs also provide access to the new *Cambridge OCR Advanced Sciences* Planner website with a week-by-week adaptable teaching schedule.

Biology 1 for OCR – the AS biology text

This book covers the entire OCR AS Biology specification for first examination in 2009. Chapters 1 to 6 correspond to Unit F211, Cells, Exchange and Transport. Chapters 7 to 15 correspond to Unit F212, Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health. Each chapter covers one of the numbered sections within the two Modules in Unit F211, and within the three Modules in Unit F212.

The content of the chapters is arranged in the same sequence as in the specification.

The book is designed to be accessible to students who have studied Double Award Science at GCSE, or who have a separate qualification in biology. The language is kept simple, to improve accessibility for all students, while still maintaining scientific rigour throughout. Care is taken to introduce and use all of the specialist terms that students need to acquire during their AS biology studies. In the text, key terms are highlighted in bold.

The depth and breadth of treatment of each topic is pitched at the appropriate level for OCR AS students. The accompanying CD-ROM also contains some material that goes a little beyond the requirements of the specification, which should interest and stretch more able students.

Some of the text and illustrations are based on material in the endorsed text *Biology 1*, which covered the earlier OCR specification, while some is completely new. All of it has been reviewed and revised, ensuring that relevant new findings relating to particular topics are included. In addition to the main content in each chapter, there are How Science Works boxes, describing issues or events related to the biological material, which begin to explore the relevance of these aspects of biology to individuals and to society.

Self assessment questions (SAQs) in each chapter provide opportunities to check understanding and to make links back to earlier work. They often address misunderstandings that commonly appear in examination answers, and will help students to avoid such errors. Past examination questions at the end of each chapter allow students to practise answering exam-style questions. The answers to these, along with exam-style mark schemes and hints on answering questions, are found on the accompanying CD-ROM.

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