

Mary Jones and Geoff Jones
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Introduction

This workbook contains exercises to help you to develop the skills you need to do well in your IGCSE Biology examination.

The IGCSE examination tests three different Assessment Objectives, or AOs for short. These are:

- AO1** Knowledge with understanding
- AO2** Handling information and problem solving
- AO3** Experimental skills and investigations.

In the examination, about 50% of the marks are for AO1, 30% for AO2 and 20% for AO3. Just learning your work and remembering it is therefore not enough to make sure that you get the best possible grade in the exam. Half of all the marks are for AO2 and AO3. You need to be able to use what you've learned in unfamiliar contexts (AO2) and to demonstrate your experimental skills (AO3).

There are lots of activities in your Coursebook, which will help you to develop your experimental skills by doing practical work. This Workbook contains exercises to help you to develop AO3 further and also to develop AO2. There are some questions that just involve remembering things you have been taught (AO1), but most of the questions require you to use what you've learned to work out, for example, what a set of data means, or to suggest how an experiment might be improved.

These exercises are not intended to be exactly like the questions you will get on your exam papers. This is because they are meant to help you to develop your skills, rather than testing you on them.

There's an introduction at the start of each exercise that tells you the purpose of it – which skills you will be working with as you answer the questions. The exercises are arranged in the same order as the chapters in your Coursebook. Towards the end of the book, there are some exercises that contain questions covering more than one chapter.

For some parts of the exercises, there are self-assessment checklists. You can try marking your own work using these. This will help you to remember the important points to think about. Your teacher should also mark the work and will discuss with you whether your own assessments are right.

In some exercises, you will see this symbol in the margin:



This indicates that the exercise is intended for students who are studying the Supplement content of the syllabus as well as the Core.

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