

# VCE Biology

## 2022–2026

## Written examination – End of year

### Examination specifications

#### Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). [VCAA examination rules](#) will apply.

There will be 15 minutes of reading time and 2 hours and 30 minutes of writing time.

The examination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

#### Content

The *VCE Biology Study Design 2022–2026* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge that underpins the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 and the key science skills found in the section ‘Cross-study specifications’ in the study design (pages 7 and 8) are examinable.

#### Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections.

**Section A** will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions worth 1 mark each and will be worth a total of 40 marks.

**Section B** will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, including questions with multiple parts. The number of questions may vary from year to year. Section B will be worth a total of 80 marks.

The examination may include questions that refer to visual and/or written material, including scenarios and/or experiments.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 120.

Answers to Section A are to be recorded on the answer sheet provided for multiple-choice questions.

Answers to Section B are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

## Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

## Relevant references

The following resources should be referred to in relation to the VCE Biology examination:

- *VCE Biology Study Design 2022–2026*
- [Biology – Support materials](#)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

## Advice

During the 2022–2026 accreditation period for VCE Biology, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4 and the key science skills found in the section ‘Cross-study specifications’ in the study design (pages 7 and 8).

Examination questions may relate to one or more outcomes and may integrate key knowledge and key science skills. The weighting of examination questions will reflect approximately the weighting of the outcomes in the study design.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the VCE Biology [‘Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports’](#) page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

Answers to multiple-choice questions are provided at the end of the sample examination.

Answers to other questions are not provided.