

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (IGCSE) Biology Paper 1

Biology Paper 1	*Paper code 4BI1/1B and 4SD0/1B
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedAvailability: November and JuneFirst assessment: June 2019	61.1% of the total International GCSE
Content summary Assesses core content that is not in bold and does not have a 'B' reference. Questions may come from any topic area across the specification. <ol style="list-style-type: none">The nature and variety of living organismsStructures and functions in living organismsReproduction and inheritanceEcology and the environmentUse of biological resources	
Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.The total number of marks is 110.A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.A calculator may be used in the examinations.	

Link To the specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Biology/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/international-gcse-biology-2017-specification1.pdf>

These topics appear very frequently across past papers and are considered the highest-yield revision areas.

Most repeated topics — Edexcel IGCSE Biology Paper 1

1. Cell structure & movement of substances (VERY common)

One of the biggest repeat areas.

Most common subtopics:

- Animal vs plant cells
- Specialised cells
- Microscopy
- Diffusion
- Osmosis
- Active transport

Very common calculation: such as magnification

Edexcel loves:

- practical questions
 - graph interpretation
 - explaining movement of substances
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2. Enzymes & digestion

Extremely common.

Know:

- Enzyme action
- Lock-and-key theory
- Temperature and pH effects
- Denaturing
- Digestive enzymes
- Food tests

Usually appears with:

- graphs
- required practical

- explain questions
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3. Human influences on the environment

Very repeated in Edexcel IGCSE.

Topics include:

- Pollution
- Global warming
- Deforestation
- Recycling
- Conservation
- Eutrophication

Often appears as:

- long-answer questions
 - evaluation questions
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4. Respiration & gas exchange

Very common:

- Aerobic respiration
- Anaerobic respiration
- Exercise
- Breathing system
- Gas exchange surfaces

Respiration equation:



5. Photosynthesis

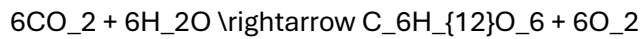
Almost guaranteed somewhere.

Know:

- Word and symbol equations
- Limiting factors
- Leaf structure

- Practical investigations

Photosynthesis equation:



6. Genetics & inheritance

Very high-frequency:

- DNA/genes/chromosomes
- Mitosis
- Meiosis basics
- Punnett squares
- Dominant/recessive alleles
- Variation

Higher-tier questions often include genetic probabilities.

7. Disease & immunity

Very common:

- Pathogens
- Bacteria vs viruses
- Immune response
- Vaccination
- Antibiotics

Frequently linked to data analysis.

8. Practical skills

Huge in Edexcel IGCSE:

- Variables
- Controls
- Reliability
- Accuracy
- Graphs/tables
- Evaluating methods

Practical application appears throughout the paper.

Topics most likely to appear as long questions

- Enzymes
 - Photosynthesis
 - Respiration
 - Environment/conservation
 - Osmosis/diffusion
 - Genetics
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Highest-yield revision order

If exams are close:

1. Enzymes
 2. Cell transport
 3. Photosynthesis & respiration
 4. Genetics
 5. Disease & immunity
 6. Practical skills
 7. Environment/conservation
 8. Microscopy
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What Edexcel IGCSE especially likes

Compared with some other boards, Edexcel IGCSE often focuses heavily on:

- interpreting data
- calculations
- practical application
- explain questions using scientific vocabulary

Doing past-paper questions by topic is one of the fastest ways to improve grades.