

SCOPE OF CONTROLLED TESTS AND EXAMS – Grade 12: 2025

TERM 1

MARCH CONTROLLED TEST

GRADE	12
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	ONE PAPER ONLY
DURATION OF THE PAPER	1 HOUR
TOTAL MARKS	50
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [20 marks] SECTION B: Short Questions: 15 + 15 = [30 marks]

EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS

1. DNA, RNA and Protein Synthesis
2. Meiosis
3. Diversity of Reproductive Strategies
4. Human Reproduction

JUNE EXAM

GRADE	12
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	ONE PAPER ONLY
DURATION OF THE PAPER	2 ½ HOURS
TOTAL MARKS	150
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [50 marks] SECTION B: Short questions: 50 + 50 = [100 marks]

EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS

1. DNA, RNA and Protein Synthesis
2. Meiosis
3. Diversity of Reproductive Strategies
4. Human Reproduction
5. Genetics and Inheritance
6. Responding to the Environment (Animals)
7. Endocrine and Homeiostasis (Endocrine Glands, Hormones and their Functions)

SEPTEMBER PREPARATORY EXAMINATION

GRADE	12
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	ONE
DURATION OF THE PAPER	2 ½ HOURS
TOTAL MARKS	150
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [50 marks] SECTION B: Short questions: 50 + 50 = [100 marks]

EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS

1. Reproduction in Vertebrates
2. Human Reproduction
3. Responding to the Environment (Animals)
4. Responding to the Environment (Plants)
5. Endocrine and Homeostasis

SEPTEMBER PREPARATORY EXAMINATION

GRADE	12
SUBJECT	LIFE SCIENCES
PAPER	TWO
DURATION OF THE PAPER	2 ½ HOURS
TOTAL MARKS	150
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	3
QUESTION PAPER FORMAT	SECTION A: Objective Questions: [50 marks] SECTION B: Short questions: 50 + 50 = [100 marks]

EXPECTED WORK COVERAGE/TOPICS

1. DNA: Code of Life
2. Meiosis
3. Genetics and Inheritance
4. Evolution

Composition of SBA components for Grade 12 – 2025

TERM	Task	Weighting (% of SBA)	% of Reporting mark per term	% of Promotion Mark
1	Practical Minimum 30 marks	10	25	25
	Test Min 50 marks Duration: 1 hour	15	75	
2	Practical Minimum 30 marks	10	50	
	June Examination 150 marks Duration: 2½ hour	15	50	
3	Assignment Minimum 50 marks Duration: 1 – 1½ hours	20	25	
	Trial Exam P1 (150 marks) 2 ½ hours & P2 (150 marks) 2 ½ hours	30	75	
	Total	100		
4	Final Examination P1 (150 marks) 2 ½ hours & P2 (150 marks) 2 ½ hours	300		75

FINAL EXAMINATION STRUCTURE OF THE PAPER

- Paper 1 and Paper 2
- 150 marks each paper
- 2½ hours each paper

**Format of a Life Sciences Examination Paper
(Grades 10-12)**



Sections	Type of questions	Marks
A	A variety of short answer questions, objective questions for example MCQ, terminology, columns/statement and items, data-response	50
B	A variety of question types. TWO questions of 50 marks each divided into 2 – 4 subsections	2 x 50

Cognitive Level Weightings

A	B	C	D
Knowing Science	Understanding Science	Applying scientific knowledge	Evaluating, analysing and synthesising scientific knowledge
40%	25%	20%	15%

Degrees of Difficulty Weightings

Easy	Moderate	Difficult	Very difficult
30%	40%	25%	5%

30%	40%	25%	5%
<p>Easy for the average learner to answer.</p> 	<p>Moderately challenging for the average learner to answer.</p>	<p>Difficult for the average learner to answer.</p> 	<p>Very difficult for the average learner to answer. The skills and knowledge required to answer the question allows for level 7 learners (extremely high-achieving/ability learners) to be discriminated from other high ability/proficiency learners.</p>

Degrees of Difficulty

Framework for thinking about question difficulty

Content/concept difficulty	Stimulus difficulty	Task difficulty	Expected response difficulty
<p>Content/concept difficulty indexes the difficulty in the subject matter, topic or conceptual knowledge assessed or required. In this judgment of the item/question, difficulty exists in the academic and conceptual demands that questions make and/or the grade level boundaries of the various 'elements' of domain/subject knowledge (topics, facts, concepts, principles and procedures associated with the subject).</p>	<p>Stimulus difficulty refers to the difficulty of the linguistic features of the question (linguistic complexity) and the challenge that candidates face when they attempt to read, interpret and understand the words and phrases in the question AND when they attempt to read and understand the information or 'text' or source material (diagrams, tables and graphs, pictures, cartoons, passages, etc.) that accompanies the question.</p>	<p>Task difficulty refers to the difficulty that candidates confront when they try to formulate or produce an answer.</p>	<p>Expected response difficulty refers to difficulty imposed by examiners in a mark scheme and memorandum. This location of difficulty is more applicable to 'constructed' response questions, as opposed to 'selected' response questions (such as multiple choice, matching/true-false).</p>

Examiners should analyse the items in their papers to ensure the paper is **not too easy** or **too difficult** even if the cognitive demand of the paper is according to the standard.

Topic Weightings for Grade 12

PAPER 1

TOPIC	Weighting (%)	MARKS
Reproduction in vertebrates	5	8
Human reproduction	27	41
Responding to the environment (Animals)	36	54
Human endocrine system and Homeostasis	23	34
Responding to the environment (Plants)	9	13
Total	100	150

PAPER 2

TOPIC	Weighting (%)	MARKS
DNA: Code of life	18	27
Meiosis	14	21
Genetics and inheritance	32	48
Evolution	36	54
Total	100	150