



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL TEACHING PLANS

GRADES: 10, 11 and 12

LIFE SCIENCES

JANUARY 2026

Life Sciences - Grade 10 – CAPS (2026)

Annual Teaching Plan - TERM ONE (11 weeks) - 53 DAYS (14 Jan – 27 March)

Week Number (Week Ending)	Completion Date	Topic for the week	INFORMAL ASSESSMENT		% Curriculum Coverage	SMT Signature and Date	FORMAL ASSESSMENT - SBA
			TASK/ACTIVITY	TICK			
Week 1 3 days (16/01)		Orientation to Life Sciences: (Pre-Knowledge - SCIENTIFIC SKILLS LINKED TO GRADE 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How science works based on knowledge and scientific skills, careers and subject combinations Graphs, Calculations: Percentage, Percentage increase/decrease, Average Scientific method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning steps, identification of variables, ensuring validity and reliability. Brief overview of the history of microscopy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light and Electron microscope Scientific diagrams Calculations: Actual size, Magnification 	Activity Draw, line graph, bar graph, histogram and pie charts Activity Interpretation of graphs, identify trends/relationships between variables. Activity Identification of variables Activity Differentiate between the planning and conducting steps of the investigation. Activity Explain and demonstrate how a light microscope works using a diagram with labels and functions Activity Explain and demonstrate how a light microscope works using a diagram with labels and functions INFORMAL TEST: Life sciences Skills and Investigations	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	7%		Task 1: Practical (Minimum 30 marks) Term Weighting – 25% Task 2: March Controlled Test (1,5 hours- Minimum 75 marks) Term weighting – 75%

Molecules for life:
Organic molecules

- made up of C, H, O and N
- Cells are made up of organic molecules

Week 3	Downloaded from Stannorephysics.com						
5 days							
(30/01)	<p>Organic compounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lipids (fats and oils)-1glycerol and 3 fatty acids; unsaturated and saturated fats. Cholesterol in foods. Heart disease• Protein – amino-acids (C, H, O and N and some have P, S, Fe). Proteins are sensitive to temperature and pH; loss of structure and function.• Role of enzymes in breaking down/synthesizing molecules• Influence of temperature and pH on enzyme action• Lock and key model of how enzymes work• Enzymes in everyday life, e.g., washing powders.• Nucleic acids: DNA and RNA – Consisting of C, H, O, N and P (No details of structure required).• Vitamins e.g. A, one of B vitamins, C, D and E <p>INVESTIGATION Food test for lipids INVESTIGATION To test the working of a “biological” washing powder with enzymes. OR Hydrogen Peroxide and chicken liver to demonstrate effect of enzyme. OR Fresh pineapple juice, egg white in plastic drinking straw. Observe, measure and record the results of the above experiment done at different temperatures</p>	<p>Activity State the building units (monomers) and functions of proteins.</p> <p>Activity Using data and interpreting graphs showing the influence of temperature and pH on enzyme action. Diagram explaining the lock- and key model</p> <p>Activity Tabulate the different vitamins, their functions, source and deficiency diseases.</p> <p>Activity Compare Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) with usual diet of individual learners for one week.</p> <p>Draw a pie chart of the food types listed in learners' diet and discuss implications of the usual diet of learners.</p> <p>INFORMAL TEST: Chemistry of Life</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input 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<p>Week 4</p> <p>5 days</p> <p>(06/02)</p>		<p>Cells: The Basic Unit of Life (Pre-Knowledge - CELL STRUCTURE FROM GRADE 9)</p> <p>Cell structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molecular make-up: • Cells are mostly made of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acids and water <p>Cell structure and function: roles of organelles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell wall-support structure in plant cells only. • Cell membrane- boundaries and transport, movement across membranes: diffusion, osmosis and active transport <p>INVESTIGATION Use a microscope or micrographs to observe and draw the structure of a: plant cell (wet mount of onion epidermis), and animal cell (cheek cells)</p>	<p>Activity Calculate magnification of drawing by measuring the field of view under a microscope OR Calculate the size of specimen on a micrograph using the scale line provided.</p> <p>Activity Explain and demonstrate how a light microscope works using a diagram with labels and functions</p>	<input type="text"/>	<p>47%</p>	
<p>Week 5</p> <p>5 days</p> <p>(13/02)</p>		<p>Cell structure and function: Roles of organelles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nucleus, chromatin material, nuclear membrane, nucleopores, nucleolus, the control centre, heredity. • Differences between prokaryotes and eukaryotes • Cytoplasm-storage, circulation of materials • Mitochondria-release of energy during cell respiration. • Ribosomes-protein synthesis • Endoplasmic reticulum (rough and smooth) transport systems • Golgi body-assemble secretion 	<p>Activity Make labelled drawings of plant and animal cell. State the functions of the various cell components</p> <p>Activity Tabulate the different organelles indicating the location, structure (diagrams), and function.</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<p>60%</p>	

[illegible]

Week 8 5 days (06/03)		Cancer (Only a brief description required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncontrolled cell division and growth • Causes of cancer, Treatments of cancer • Medical biotechnology e.g., radiotherapy, chemotherapy (no detail required) 	Activity Research and Present information on ONE of the cancers. This must include causes, prevalence and treatment.	<input type="text"/>	100%		
Week 9 5 days (13/03)		Revision and Assessment	Activities for Revision and Assessment				
Week 10 4 days (20/03)		Assessment					
Week 11 5 days (27/03) END OF TERM ONE		Assessment					

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<p>Week 4</p> <p>3 days</p> <p>(30/04)</p>		<p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake of water and minerals into xylem in roots; • Transport of water and minerals to leaves; • Translocation of manufactured food from leaves to other parts of plant. </p> <p>INVESTIGATION</p> <p>Investigate water uptake through the roots and the movement of water through the xylem. (Use <i>Impatiens</i> if possible)</p>	<p>Activity</p> <p>Describe the translocation of organic substances from the leaves to other parts of the plant. (Diagram)</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Describe the uptake and movement of water through a plant. (Diagram)</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Describe the translocation of organic substances from the leaves to other parts of the plant. (Diagram)</p>	<input data-bbox="1541 164 1608 196" type="text"/> <input data-bbox="1541 387 1608 419" type="text"/>	46%		
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Week 5		(CAPS p 28) Animal Tissues Pre-knowledge: Basic Cell Structure Animal tissues: 4 basic types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epithelial (squamous, cuboidal, columnar and ciliated) • Connective (blood, cartilage, tendons, ligaments, bone) • Muscle (skeletal, smooth and cardiac referring to voluntary and involuntary action) • Nerve tissue (sensory-, motor- and interneurons) Relationship between structure and function [No detail required – some tissues, e.g., blood and nerves in the reflex arc, will be covered in more detail in relevant sections]	Activity Examine and identify the following animal tissues: Epithelial, connective, muscle, nerve tissue using micrographs or posters. Activity Tabulate different tissues by drawing the tissue to show specialised structure and functions.	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	59%		
Week 6		Musculoskeletal system Gr 8, Animal Tissues Human skeleton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the axial skeleton: mention of facial bones, cranium, foramen magnum, palate and jaws • appendicular skeleton The pectoral girdle and upper limbs The pelvic girdle and lower limbs Functions of skeleton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement • Protection • Support • Storage of minerals • Hearing 	Activity Observe and label the human skeleton with the main functions of the skeleton (model or photographs) Activity Different tissues by drawing the tissue to show specialised structure and functions. Activity Observe and draw a typical long bone: Longitudinal section INFORMAL TEST: Musculoskeletal system, Animal Tissues	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	72%		

Week 7 5 days (22/05)	Downloaded from Stanmorephysics.com CAPS 26 Transport system in animals (Pre-knowledge: Circulatory System Gr 9, Animal Tissues) Transport system/ circulatory system Blood circulation system Pulmonary and systemic (double, closed) circulatory systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> heart and associated blood vessels heart: internal and external structure related to functioning, cardiac cycle: blood flow through the heart INVESTIGATION Dissection of mammal heart (sheep, cow or pig) obtained from a butchery. Identify chambers, valves, muscle, blood vessels. (Supported by worksheet.)	Activity Draw and label (OR give a diagram of) a blood circulatory system to indicate a double & closed system. Schematic representation of the pulmonary and systemic circulation.	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	86%	
Week 8 5 days (29/05)	Direction of blood flow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> difference between oxygenated and deoxygenated blood in different parts of the system (diagram or schematic drawing) lungs and pulmonary system, associated blood vessels major organs and systemic system: associated major blood vessels of brain, small intestine, liver and kidney Blood vessels: structure and functioning of arteries, veins with valves and capillaries. INVESTIGATION In pairs, measure the pulse of one learner before and after exercise. Record, interpret and explain data presented as a graph.	Activity The internal structure of the heart. Use different coloured arrows to indicate the flow of blood through the heart. Activity Use diagrams to identify the phases of the cardiac cycle (systole & diastole). Activity Tabulate and draw with labels and functions to indicate the different types of blood vessels and functions. INFORMAL TEST: Circulatory System, Animal Tissues	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	100%	



Week 9 5 days (05/06)		Revision and Assessment	Activities for Revision and Assessment				
Week 10 5 days (12/06)		Assessment					
Week 11 4 days (19/06)		Assessment					
Week 12 5 days (26/06) END OF TERM TWO		Assessment					

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<p>Week 2</p> <p>5 days</p> <p>(31/07)</p>	<p>Downloaded from Stanmorephysics.com</p> <p>Geological timescale: Meaning and use of timescales (details not to be memorised)</p> <p>The three eras:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paleozoic, • Mesozoic and • Cenozoic. <p>Each era divided into periods (Names of periods not to be memorised)</p> <p>Cambrian explosion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of early forms of all animal groups. • Life-forms have gradually changed to become present life forms. • In the last four million years significant changes have occurred in species occurring in Africa (e.g., humans) 	<p>Activity</p> <p>Use a geological time scale to test the understanding of the three eras and the periods with emphasis on the Cambrian explosion</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Interpret various forms of the geological time scale and representations of the history of life on Earth</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>INFORMAL TEST:</p> <p>History of Life on Earth</p> <p><input type="text"/></p>	<p>23%</p>
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Week 3		<p>Mass extinctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been five, two of which are particularly important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 mya (resulted in the extinction of about 90% of all life on Earth) and 65 mya (resulted in the extinction of many species, including the dinosaurs). The rate of extinction on the Earth at present is higher than at any time in the past. The present time has been called the sixth extinction. <p>Fossil formation and methods of dating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g., radiometric dating and relative dating 	<p>Activity</p> <p>Research the “missing link” between dinosaurs and birds (Archaeopteryx)</p> <p>Research the “link” between fish and amphibians (Coelacanth). Present a verbal or written report.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Various hypotheses have been proposed for the extinction, 65 million years ago, such as the meteorite impact theory and the volcanism (in India) theory. Select ONE of these hypotheses and describe the evidence scientists have gathered in support of it. (Nature of science)</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Describe fossil formation and interpretation of data based on methods of dating.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Examine fossils at a museum or fossil site or look at photographs of fossils.</p> <p>Optional: Use plaster of Paris to construct a “fossil”.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	36%				
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<p>Week 7</p> <p>5 days</p> <p>(04/09)</p>	<p>Nutrient Cycles: Flow charts of the following nutrient cycles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water • oxygen • carbon and • nitrogen <p>(Names e.g. nitrates are required but no detail of chemistry is necessary).</p> <p>INVESTIGATION</p> <p>Fieldwork Choose ONE ecosystem (close to the school) within a local biome for special study</p> <p>The study must deal with abiotic and biotic factors and the interactions between them; trophic relationships in an ecosystem record and describe seasonal changes over 2 terms: either term 1 and 2 or term 3 and 4 biodiversity within the ecosystem using field guides and keys; positive</p> <p>and/or negative human impact/influence on the ecosystem.</p> <p>Different groups should investigate different factors. Each group must plan, collect, record and present, analyse and evaluate data.</p>	<p>Activity Describe nutrient cycles and give examples</p> <p>Activity Describe how water, oxygen, carbon and nitrogen is cycled through an ecosystem</p> <p>Activity Use flow charts to illustrate the 4 nutrient cycles Interpret flow diagrams based on the water, oxygen, carbon and nitrogen cycles</p> <p>Activity Define ecotourism. Describe positive and negative influences that humans may have on the environment</p> <p>Activity Describe the advantages and disadvantages of ecotourism</p> <p>INFORMAL TEST: Biosphere and Ecosystems</p>	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>	<p>87%</p>		
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<p>Week 8</p> <p>4 days</p> <p>(10/09)</p>	<p>(CAPS p 33) Biodiversity and Classification schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a way of organising biodiversity. Brief history of classification; • Scientists attempt to classify organisms based on shared features. • As information increases classification changes. <p>One of the currently accepted classification systems is the five kingdom system;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animalia, • Plantae, • Fungi, • Protista and • Monera (Bacteria) <p>Naming things in science:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • species concept and binomial system. Focus on Linnaeus (Carl von Linneus) and his role in classification systems: Why do we use Latin? <p>Differences between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prokaryotes and • eukaryotes (link to cell structure). 	<p>Activity</p> <p>Describe Principles of classification. Grouping everyday objects on the basis of shared similarities. A simple nested hierarchy.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Classify a selection of familiar organisms into groups based on visible evidence. Use keys and identification guides.</p> <p>INFORMAL TEST:</p> <p>Biodiversity and Classification</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>100%</p>		
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Week 9 5 days (18/09)		Revision and Assessment	Activities for Revision and Assessment				
Week 10 3 days (23/09) END OF TERM THREE		Assessment	Assessment				

Annual Teaching Plan - TERM FOUR (10 weeks) 47 - DAYS (06 October – 09 December)

Week Number (Week Ending)	Completion Date	Topic for the week	INFORMAL ASSESSMENT		%Curriculum Coverage	SMT Signature and Date	FORMAL ASSESSMENT - SBA
			TASK/ACTIVITY	TICK			
Week 1 4 days (09/10)		CAPS p 35) Biodiversity and Classification Main groupings of living organisms are bacteria, protists, fungi, plants and animals. Diagnostic features of each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria • Protists • Fungi • Plants • Animals 	Activity List the distinguishing characteristic of each of the five kingdoms. Use biological keys to identify various organisms Activity Explain the need for classification and describe the classification system used today INFORMAL TEST: Biodiversity and Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	100%		Task 7: Final Examinations Paper 1 (2,5 hours - 150 marks) Paper 2 (2,5 hours - 150 marks) Exam weighting – 60% SBA Year weighting – 40%
Week 2 5 days (16/10)		Revision Paper 1 and 2	Revision Paper 1& 2				
Week 3 5 days (23/10)		Revision Paper 1 and 2	Revision Paper 1 & 2				
Week 4 5 days (30/10)		Revision Paper 1 and 2	Revision Paper 1 & 2				

Week 5-10 28 days (02/11–09/12)		FINAL EXAMINATION (Two Papers) Cognitive levels: Knowing science - 40% Understanding science- 25% Applying scientific knowledge - 20% Evaluating, analysing and synthesising science knowledge - 15% Degrees of difficulty for examination and test questions: Easy - 30% Moderate - 40% Difficult - 25% Very difficult - 5%			
	PAPER 1 Marks: 150 Time: 2½ hours <i>Learners must answer all 3 questions</i> Topics and marks <i>Chemistry of life – 33</i> <i>Cells: Basic units of life- 19</i> <i>Cell division (mitosis) – 19</i> <i>Plant and animal tissues – 28</i> <i>Plant organs – 9</i> <i>Support and transport systems: Plants – 23</i> <i>Support systems: Animals – 19</i>	PAPER 2 Marks: 150 Time: 2½ hours <i>Learners must answer all 3 questions</i> Topics and marks: <i>Transport systems in mammals – 32</i> <i>Biosphere to ecosystems – 54</i> <i>Biodiversity and classification – 21</i> <i>History of life on earth – 43</i>			