

Syllabus changes in Cambridge O Level Biology (5090)

Dear Teacher

As you may be aware, Cambridge International has updated the **Cambridge O Level Biology syllabus (5090)**, with first examinations in 2023. We have updated our resources to fully support you in teaching the revised syllabus and are working with **Cambridge International to gain endorsement for this forthcoming series.**

Please visit www.cambridgeinternational.org for information about the current syllabuses and full details of the changes.

The revised syllabus is now organised into 19 main topics (from 17) and the order and content of these have changed substantially:

- **2** is Classification, which includes viruses, bacteria and fungi (from 14)
- **3** is Movement in and out of cells, which includes Active transport (from 2)
- **4** is Biological molecules
- **5** is Enzymes (from 3)
- **6** is Plant nutrition (from 4)
- **7** is Transport in flowering plants (from 6)
- **8** is Human nutrition (from 5)
- **9** is Human gas exchange (from 8)
- **10** is Respiration (also from 8)
- **11** is Transport in Humans (from 7)
- **12** is Disease and Immunity, which includes Antibiotics (from 12) Malaria (from 15) and HIV (from 16)
- **13** is Excretion (from 9)
- **14** is Coordination and control (from 11) which includes Homeostasis (from 10)
- **17** is Development of organisms and continuity of life, but Sexually transmitted diseases (HIV) is moved to 12
- **18** is Biotechnology and genetic modification (from 14 and 17)
 - ↔ Note also that the term 'genetic engineering' is now referred to as 'genetic modification'
- **19** is Relationships of organisms with one another and with the environment (from 15)

Topics no longer on the syllabus include:

- World food supplies
- Malnutrition
- Causes of tooth decay
- Kidney dialysis
- Structures of the brain, Drugs – the effects of heroin
- Syphilis
- Advantages of breast milk over bottled milk
- Birth control
- Parasitism
- Support, movement and locomotion

New topics include:

- Disease
- Cholera and the importance of clean water
- Coordination and response in plants
- Conservation of fish stocks



As you would expect, our publication will be structured to reflect the changes in syllabus coverage and structure.

The new edition Student's Book will support all of these changes and it has new features added.

These include:

- The latest examples and images of the biology covered by the Cambridge O Level syllabus, making them relevant to users worldwide
- Focus points at the start of each chapter to summarise the concepts on which each topic is based
- Worked examples to provide the students with more mathematical support and help in the development of the maths skills the syllabus requires students to demonstrate
- A glossary containing all the definitions and other key terms
- 'Test Yourself' questions at the end of each section within a topic, to help students check they have fully understood the content

Yours Faithfully,
Author Dave Hayward