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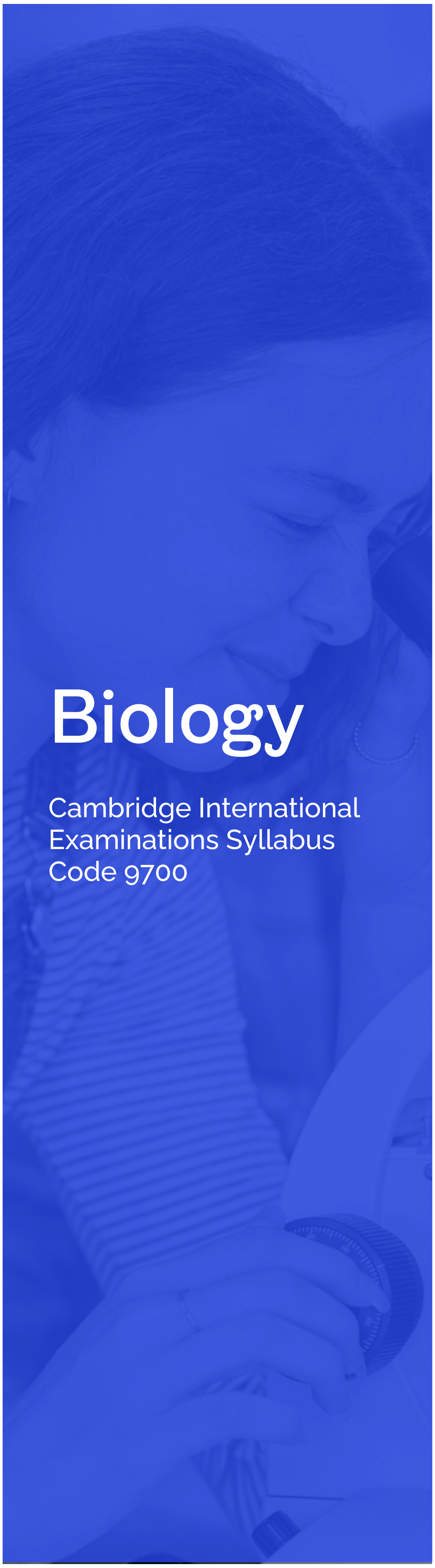

# Biology

Cambridge International Examinations Syllabus Code 9700

## IGCSEs needed

Students will need to have an IGCSE grade of **A*, A or B** or its equivalent in Biology.

## Course Overview

Cambridge International AS & A Level Biology encourages learners to explore their subject in depth. The syllabus has been designed, in consultation with teachers and universities, to help learners develop not only subject knowledge but also a strong understanding of some of the key concepts that are critical to mastering the subject.

Universities value learners who have a thorough understanding of key concepts in biology, in-depth knowledge of biology's most important themes and strong practical skills. Cambridge International AS and A Level Biology helps learners develop the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for successful university study. Our learners also develop lifelong skills of scientific enquiry, confidence in technology, and communication and teamwork skills.

## Syllabus Units/Topics

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Level Biology study the following topics:
1 Cell Structure
2 Biological Molecules
3 Enzymes
4 Cell Membrane and Transport
5 Cell and Nuclear Division
6 Genetic Control
7 Transport in plants
8 Transport in animals
9 Gaseous Exchange
10 Infectious Disease
11 Immunity

## Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Biology study the AS topics and the following topics:

12 Energy and respiration
13 Photosynthesis
14 Homeostasis
15 Control and co-ordination
16 Inherited change
17 Selection and evolution
18 Biodiversity, classification and conservation
19 Genetic technology

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## Assessment Details

**Paper 1**

Multiple Choice — 1 hour 15 minutes
40 marks
40 Multiple-choice questions
Questions are based on the AS Level syllabus content.
Externally assessed
31% of the AS Level
15.5% of the A Level

**Paper 2**

AS Level Structured Questions — 1 hour 15 minutes
60 marks
Structured questions
Questions are based on the AS Level syllabus content.
Externally assessed
46% of the AS Level
23% of the A Level

**Paper 3**

Advanced Practical Skills — 2 hours
40 marks
Practical work and structured questions
Questions are based on the practical skills in the Practical assessment section of the syllabus.
The context of the questions may be outside the syllabus content.
Externally assessed
23% of the AS Level
11.5% of the A Level

**Paper 4**

A Level Structured Questions — 2 hours
100 marks
Structured questions
Questions are based on the A Level syllabus content; knowledge of material from the AS Level syllabus content will be required.
Externally assessed
38.5% of the A Level

**Paper 5**

Planning, Analysis and Evaluation — 1 hour 15 minutes
30 marks
Questions are based on the practical skills of planning, analysis and evaluation.
The context of the questions may be outside the syllabus content.
Externally assessed
11.5% of the A Level

Information on availability is in the **Before you start** section.

## Skills Developed

### 1. Knowledge with understanding

Candidates will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- scientific phenomena, facts, laws, definitions, concepts and theories
- scientific vocabulary, terminology and conventions (including symbols, quantities and units)
- scientific instruments and apparatus used in biology, including techniques of operation and aspects of safety
- experimental quantities and their determination
- scientific and technological applications, with their social, economic and environmental implications

### 2. Handling information and solving problems

Candidates will be able to handle information and solve problems using written, symbolic, graphical and numerical forms of presentation to:

- locate, select, organise and present information from a variety of sources
- translate information from one form to another
- manipulate numerical and other data
- use the information to identify patterns, report trends and draw conclusions
- give reasoned explanations for phenomena, patterns and relationships
- make predictions and hypotheses
- apply knowledge, including principles, to new situations
- demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of biological theories and models
- solve problems

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