

# Design Brief



## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### Sample WACE Examination Design Brief Stage 2

Stage 2 exam paper sections	Supporting information
<b>Section One: Multiple choice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30 minutes</li><li>• 20 questions</li><li>• 20%</li></ul>	This section enables a broad coverage of the course content. Candidates will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of Biological Sciences. Candidates will be asked to choose one of four alternatives for each of the twenty questions in this section.
<b>Section Two: Short answer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 90 minutes</li><li>• 6 questions</li><li>• 60%</li></ul>	Questions to be well scaffolded. Questions to be supported by diagrams were appropriate. Questions to be in sectionalised, focusing on a theme and increasing in complexity. This section will allow candidates to demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge and understanding. Candidates will apply knowledge, interpret data and/or construct annotated diagrams and graphs to assist their explanations. Stimulus material may be used in this section e.g. diagrams, second hand data, recent research material.
<b>Section Three: Extended answer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 60 minutes</li><li>• 2 compulsory questions</li><li>• 20%</li></ul>	Questions may be sectionalised. In this section, the questions will be of a more holistic nature and supported with scaffolding. Stimulus material may be used in this section e.g. diagrams, second hand data, recent research material. Candidates will be given the opportunity to demonstrate higher order thinking. They will interpret and respond to questions that may include stimulus materials e.g. diagrams, second hand data and recent research findings. Candidates may answer these questions in a variety of ways provided they communicate their ideas effectively. Candidates may choose to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ present a clearly labelled diagram</li><li>▪ write notes beside a clear diagram</li><li>▪ write lists of points, with sentences which link them</li><li>▪ write concisely worded sentences</li><li>▪ use some other appropriate way to present ideas.</li></ul>

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The WACE examination will address all three outcomes and be divided into 3 sections. A combined question/answer booklet will be provided.

Instructions to candidates will indicate that, unless otherwise specified, any mode of response that clearly communicates their understanding and is clearly legible is acceptable e.g. written or diagrammatic.

Teachers should note the mark allocation difference between the Stages 2 and 3 examinations.

#### PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

The general materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are stationery comprising pens, pencils, eraser or correction fluid, a ruler and non programmable calculator.

#### EXAMINATION LENGTH

The total examination length is three hours with an additional 10 minutes reading time.  
(Total 3 hours 10 minutes)

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### Sample WACE Examination Design Brief Stage 3

Stage 3 exam paper sections	Supporting information
<b>Section One: Multiple choice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 minutes</li><li>• 10 questions</li><li>• 10%</li></ul>	<p>This section enables a broad coverage of the course content. Candidates will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of Biological Sciences. Candidates will be asked to choose one of four alternatives for each of the ten questions in this section.</p>
<b>Section Two: Short answer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 95 minutes</li><li>• 7 questions</li><li>• 65%</li></ul>	<p>This section will contain sectionalised questions which, focus on a theme and increase in complexity with later parts being more open ended. Questions to be supported by diagrams where appropriate.</p> <p>This section will allow candidates to demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge and understanding. Candidates will apply knowledge, interpret data and/or construct annotated diagrams and graphs to assist their explanations.</p> <p>Stimulus material may be used in this section e.g. diagrams, second hand data, recent research material.</p>
<b>Section Three: Extended answer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70 minutes</li><li>• 2 compulsory questions</li><li>• 25%</li></ul>	<p>Questions may be sectionalised.</p> <p>In this section, the questions will be of a more holistic nature and with less scaffolding than Stage two.</p> <p>Candidates will be able to demonstrate the depth and breadth of their knowledge by providing detailed answers.</p> <p>Candidates will be given the opportunity to demonstrate higher order thinking. They will interpret and respond to questions that may include stimulus materials e.g. diagrams, second hand data and recent research findings.</p> <p>Candidates may answer these questions in a variety of ways provided they communicate their ideas effectively.</p> <p>Candidates may choose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ present a clearly labelled diagram</li><li>▪ write notes beside a clear diagram</li><li>▪ write lists of points, with sentences which link them</li><li>▪ write concisely worded sentences</li><li>▪ use some other appropriate way to present ideas.</li></ul>

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The WACE examination will address all three outcomes and be divided into 3 sections. A combined question/answer booklet will be provided.

Instructions to candidates will indicate that, unless otherwise specified, any mode of response that clearly communicates their understanding and is clearly legible is acceptable e.g. written or diagrammatic.

**Teachers should note the mark allocation difference between the Stages 2 and 3 examinations.**

#### PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

The general materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are stationery comprising pens, pencils, eraser or correction fluid, a ruler and non programmable calculator.

#### EXAMINATION LENGTH

The total examination length is three hours with an additional 10 minutes reading time.  
(Total 3 hours 10 minutes)