

# WJEC Biology

## Autumn Newsletter 2016

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# 1. GCE AS and A level Biology

## What's new?

The new WJEC GCE AS/A level Biology qualification is now in its second year of teaching. Key points to note:

- Face-to-face [teacher training](#) events led by the subject officer will be taking place this Autumn. Booking is now available.
- All of the [WJEC Science web pages](#) have been updated so there are now web pages for all legacy and new qualifications. Take a look now.
- The [lab book](#) is available in pdf format on the subject web page.
- The [guidance for teaching](#) document provides detailed support.
- Resources to support the teaching of the options topics will shortly become available.
- The principal [examiners' report](#) for Summer 2016 provides feedback on the recent new AS examinations.

## Dates for your diary

The Summer 2017 examinations timetable has now been finalised. The key dates are now available on the [WJEC website](#).

[View Key Dates](#)

### Unit 5 Practical Examination (new specification)

Experimental task - Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April 2017

Practical analysis task - Thursday 6 April 2017

## Resources

We are continually developing a wide range of resources to support you in the delivery of our qualifications.

[Download Digital Resources](#)

[Download All course materials](#)

Why not bookmark our [qualifications page](#) to keep up to date with new resources?

You can also take a look at our [Online Exam Review](#) on the WJEC website. Our OER is an innovative, interactive tool designed to help teachers improve standards in the classroom.

## Teacher Training

We are holding a series of training courses to assist you in the delivery of our reformed GCE AS and A level Biology qualifications.

Our Approaches to Teaching full day courses will review the recent AS assessment and examiners report whilst sharing good practice and considering approaches to teaching key elements of both the AS and A level specifications

[Visit Training Page](#)

If any course dates have closed for online bookings or are fully booked, please email our dedicated CPD team at [cpd@wjec.co.uk](mailto:cpd@wjec.co.uk) for assistance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a final re-sit opportunity for the legacy GCE AS/A level Biology qualification?

Yes. All units (including BY3 and BY6) will be available in Summer 2017. Intention to enter applications for June 2017 GCE exams must be made by no later than **31 October 2016** through the WJEC secure website. Applications made after this date will **not** be accepted.

2. When will I obtain information on the equipment needed for the new Unit 5 Practical examination?

In December the "Instructions to teachers / exams officers" document will be sent to centres. This document will obtain an equipment list for the examination. Teachers may open the "Setting up Instructions" document 1 week before Test 1 (i.e. Tuesday 28 March 2017). This is for the purpose of ensuring that the apparatus functions well enough for the candidates to complete the assessment fully. Teachers are encouraged to try out the task, whilst preserving the confidentiality of the assessment. The full version of the examination paper will not be available until the day of the examination (i.e. Tuesday 4 April 2017).

## 2. Examiner and Moderator Vacancies

We continue to recruit examiners and moderators for all of our subjects. If you are interested in examining for us please visit the website for further details and to [apply](#).

Examining and moderating are [rewarding careers](#) offering a unique opportunity to gain a greater understanding of your subject. The work is flexible and can be done in your own time alongside your current teaching position.

Where there are no vacancies, your application will be stored and referred to as and when vacancies become available.

### 3. Secure Website

The WJEC [Secure Website](#) provides access to a range of resources including circulars, past papers and marking schemes. The Secure Website can be accessed by authorised staff at centres that work with WJEC. If your centre is not registered, please ask your exams officer to email [securewebsite@wjec.co.uk](mailto:securewebsite@wjec.co.uk) stating centre number, centre name, contact name and contact email address. Your exams officer can give you access to the secure website.

### 4. Email Updates

Encourage your colleagues to sign up for Biology updates and be kept informed of the latest developments and important information. Visit our [website](#) to subscribe.

### 5. Useful Contacts

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our dedicated team.

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