

Minor syllabus refinements 2010: Biological Sciences, Human Biological Science, Integrated Science and Psychology

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In response to teacher feedback, the Curriculum Council has made minor syllabus refinements for teaching in 2010. The updated syllabus documents are now on the Council website and indicated with an 'updated' logo. The documents have a watermark and footer to clearly identify them as the syllabus for 2010.

Biological Sciences

The rationale and the unit descriptions have been refined to reflect the content in the units. There are minor wording changes to the syllabus to clarify the content.

Additions, deletions and movements as follows:

Unit 2A

Deletions

- nitrogen cycle
- adaptations for excretion
- removal of waste products in plants
- removal of wastes from animals.

Movement

- study of ecosystems using biological field techniques (from 2B).

Unit 2B

Deletions

- co-dominance
- incomplete dominance.

Unit 3A

Addition

- factors affecting salt balance.

Movement

- use of microscopy techniques (from 3B)
- standard scientific techniques and SI units (from 3B).

Unit 3B

Deletions

The application of biotechnology to medicine has been removed from the description of continuity of species.

- pharmaceuticals.

Working as a biologist

- critique of a published reviewed biological sciences study
- implications and issues associated with the possible application of their findings
- defend or debate findings
- challenge others interpretations of data, using evidence and biological knowledge
- reflecting on own beliefs and that of others in the light of evidence

Addition

- analysis of current biological issues using scientifically informed sources

Human Biological Science

The rationale and the unit descriptions have been refined to reflect the content in the units. There are minor wording changes to the syllabus to clarify the content.

Additions, deletions and movements as follows:

Unit 2A

Additions

The following dot point and sub-dot points have been added to 'Body Systems':

- Protection of body systems
 - body's external defences against disease – of skin, digestive, urogenital, respiratory, eye and ear
 - internal e.g. antibiotics and antivirals.

Movement

The dot point related to the effectiveness of methods of assisting non-specific body defences has been moved from unit 2B to unit 2A

Unit 2B

Addition

'Sexually transmitted infections' is no longer a dot point and forms a heading with the following dot point:

- causes, symptoms and treatment.

Unit 3A

Movement

'Nerve impulse generation and propagation' has been moved to unit 3B

'Cellular control of gene expression' has been moved to unit 3B.

Addition

Under 'Gene expression', the following dot point has been added:

- role of epigenetics.

Unit 3B

Under 'Specific resistance', the following dot point has been added:

- role of antibiotics and antivirals.

Integrated Science

The rationale and the unit descriptions have been refined to reflect the content in the units. There are minor wording changes to the syllabus to clarify the content.

Additions, deletions and movements as follows:

Unit 2A

Adolescents and driving

Deletion

- define momentum.

Unit 2B

Importance of water

Addition

- processes affecting water abundance and distribution e.g. climate change.

Aquatic ecosystems

Replace the example 'tropical and arctic waters' with 'circulation of water currents along the WA coast'.

Water resources and sustainability

Remove 'and globally', and add 'Western' Australia' in the first two dot points.

Psychology

The formatting of the unit content has been modified by the use of closed and open dot points to clarify the relationship of the content. Some elements of the research content has been reclassified as topic-based content. Some research content central to conducting investigations has been moved from unit 2B to unit 2A.

There are minor wording changes to the syllabus to clarify the content.

Unit 3A

In the Social, historical and political influences content organiser, 'political issues' has been replaced with 'social issues'.

Unit 3B

'McDougall' has been deleted from the Social Psychology content organiser and 'alternative hypotheses' has been removed from the Cognition content organiser.