Assessment in IGCSE Biology 0610
Session 1: Handout 1.10
The structure of the syllabus

The purpose of this document is to enable teachers to focus on and test themselves on the nature and content of the syllabus. Try to answer the following questions by reference to the curriculum content section of the syllabus.

1. What extra knowledge is required for the Supplement?

2. What extra levels of skill are required in the Supplement that are not found in the Core? Refer to the grade descriptions in the syllabus to help you.

3. The order in which topics appear in the syllabus may not always be the order in which you would like to teach them. For example, you might like to teach the carbon cycle (Section IV 3) with respiration (II 8) or photosynthesis (II 6). Can you identify any areas where the scheme of work that you use, or would like to use, differs from the sequence of topics in the syllabus?

4. Can you identify any areas of the syllabus on which you put less emphasis on than others? If so, why do you do this?

5. There are several areas of the syllabus that can be easily 'overlooked' in your overall scheme of work. Find where the following topics are in the syllabus.

       i   the benefits of food additives
       ii   systemic pesticides
       iii   the transfer of materials between capillaries and tissue fluid
       iv   the principles of recycling illustrated by paper

6. Make a list of all the definitions required by the syllabus. You may find it useful to photocopy this for your students.

7. Make a list of parts of the syllabus where background knowledge of chemistry or physics are required. For example, section II 4.1 on diffusion requires background knowledge of the kinetic theory and understanding of the term 'molecule'. How do you ensure that pupils have this background knowledge before you teach these concepts?

8. Identify any topics that might be best covered at particular times of year.

9. Identify any topics where you consider that your own knowledge, or the teaching materials that you have available, is insufficient. What can you do to remedy this?