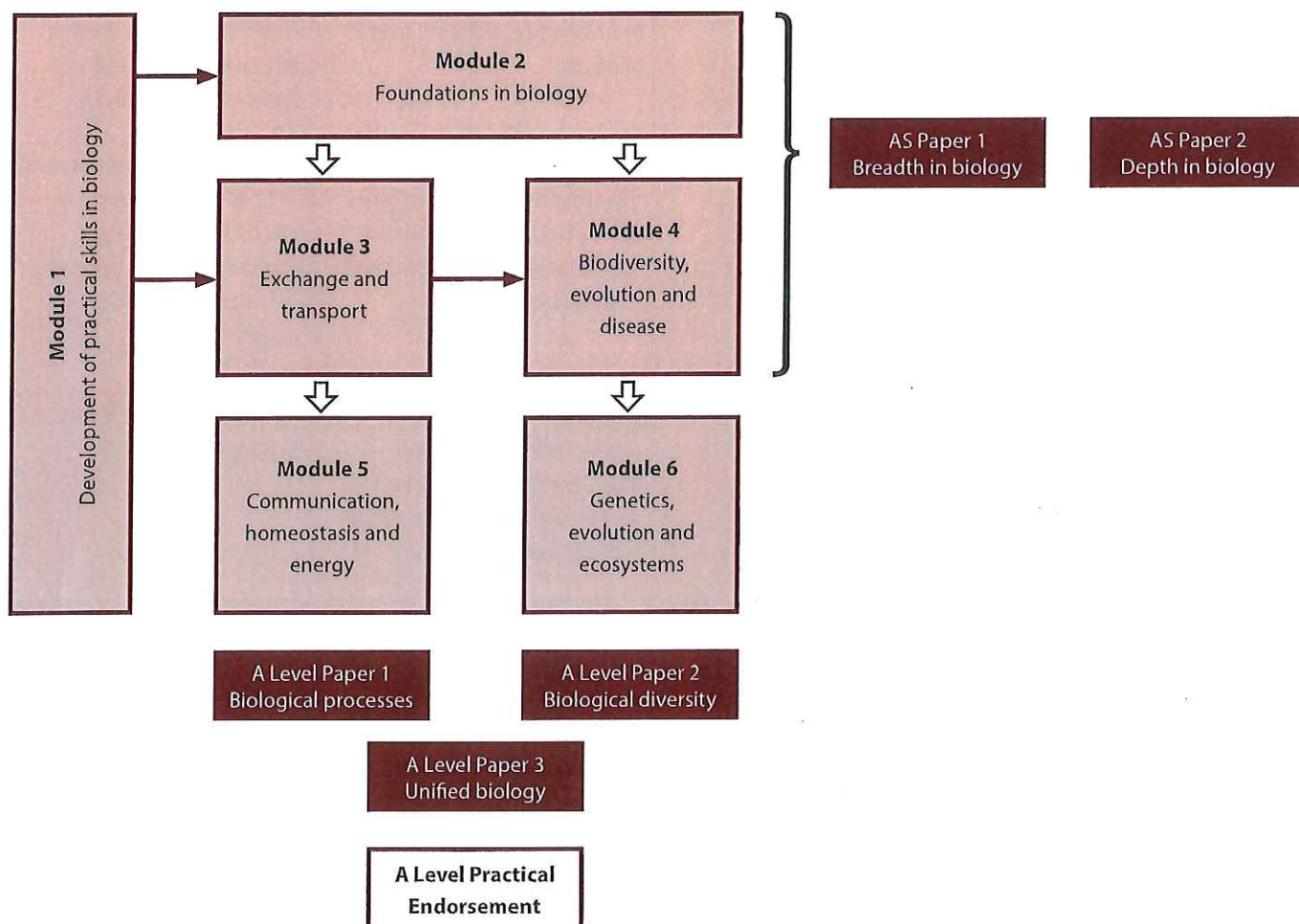


# BIOLOGY A AT A GLANCE

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Biology A is split into six teaching modules: Modules 1 to 4 constitute the stand-alone AS Level qualification; Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level. The teaching modules can be summarised as:

- **Module 1:** Development of practical skills in biology – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement.
  - **Module 2:** Foundations in biology – covering key concepts required throughout the remaining modules.
  - **Modules 3 and 4:** AS Level topics.
  - **Modules 5 and 6:** A Level only topics.
- At AS Level:**
- AS Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4.
- At A Level:**
- A Level Paper 1 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5
  - A Level Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
  - A Level Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6.



# CONTENT OVERVIEW

## BIOLOGY A – AS (H020) / A LEVEL (H420)

<b>Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology</b>	
Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.	
<b>Module 2 – Foundations in biology</b>	
Includes: Cell structure; Biological molecules; Nucleotides and nucleic acids; Enzymes; Biological membranes; Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation.	
<b>Module 3 – Exchange and transport</b>	<b>Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease</b>
Includes: • Exchange surfaces • Transport in animals • Transport in plants.	Includes: • Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system • Biodiversity • Classification and evolution.
<b>Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy</b>	<b>Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems</b>
Includes: • Communication and homeostasis • Excretion as an example of homeostatic control • Neuronal communication • Hormonal communication • Plant and animal responses • Photosynthesis • Respiration.	Includes: • Cellular control • Patterns of inheritance • Manipulating genomes • Cloning and biotechnology • Ecosystems • Populations and sustainability.

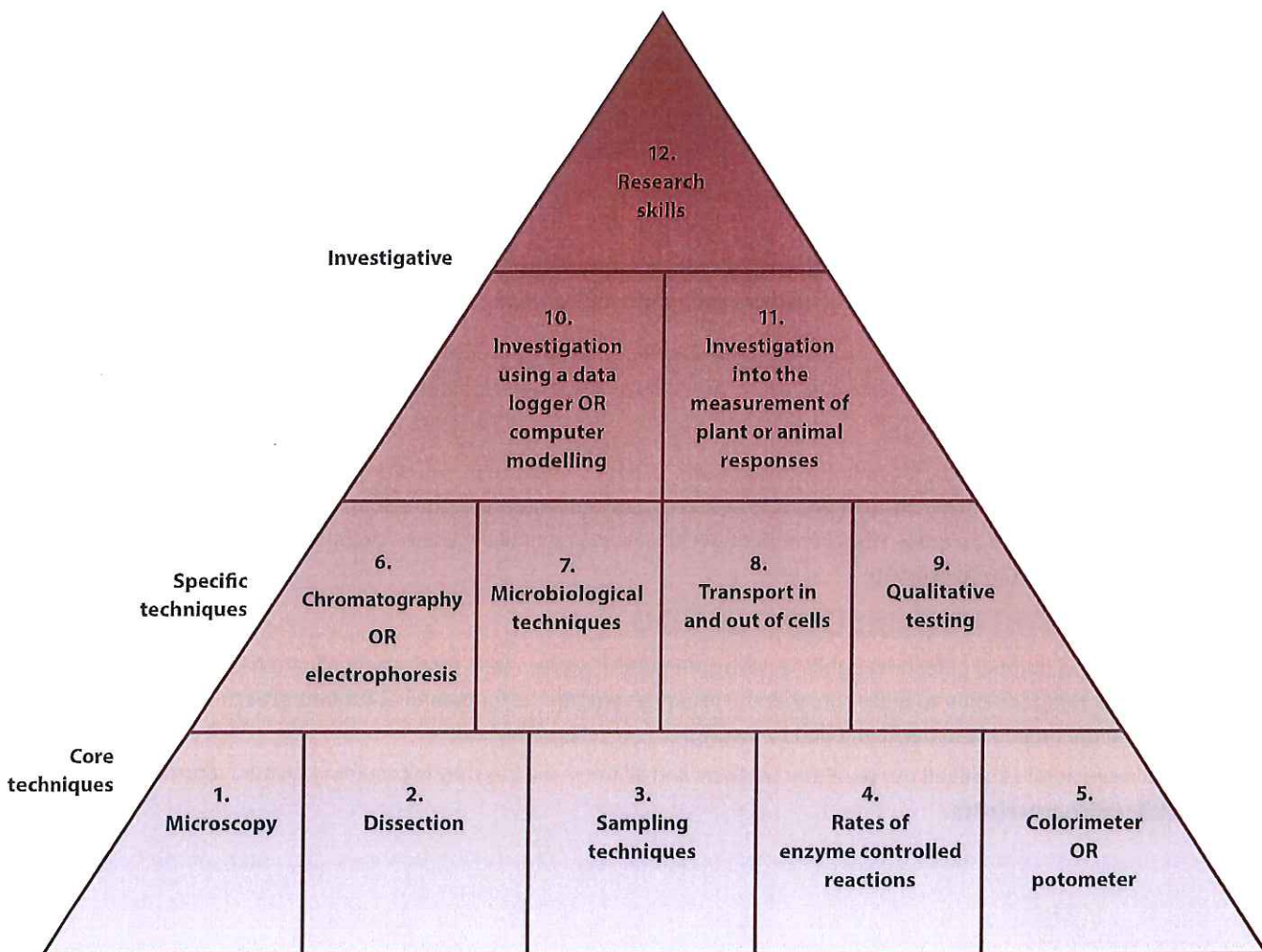
## BIOLOGY A: ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

AS Level Biology A					
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW					
Paper			Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	<b>Breadth in biology</b>		<b>70</b>	1 hr 30 min	50%
	Section A	Multiple choice	20		
	Section B	Structured questions covering theory and practical skills	50		
Paper 2	<b>Depth in biology</b>		<b>70</b>	1 hr 30 min	50%
	Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills		70		

A Level Biology A					
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW					
Paper			Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	<b>Biological processes</b>		<b>100</b>	2 hr 15 min	37%
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills	85		
Paper 2	<b>Biological diversity</b>		<b>100</b>	2 hr 15 min	37%
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills	85		
Paper 3	<b>Unified biology</b>		<b>70</b>	1 hr 30 min	26%
	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills		<b>70</b>		
Non-exam assessment	<b>Practical endorsement for biology</b>		<b>Pass/Fail</b>	Non-exam assessment	Reported separately
	See pages 26 and 27. Teacher-assessed component common to Biology A and Biology B (Advancing Biology). Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance reported separately from the A Level grade. Moderation details still to be confirmed by Ofqual at the time of going to press		0		



The items listed within Table 1 have to be covered within the Practical Endorsement through a minimum of 12 practical activities (again this is set as a common rule across all awarding organisations). OCR's proposed model for the Practical Endorsement maps out 12 activities into the categories shown below.



For each Practical Activity Group (PAG1-12) above, OCR will provide practical activities for teachers to use. Alternatively, centres can draft their own practical activities. Coursework consultancy will be available to support centres drafting their own practical activities and wishing for advice on the suitability of their proposed tasks.