



Key information for the Biology Stage 6 Syllabus (2017)

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Biology Stage 6 Syllabus \(2017\)](#) requires students to study 8 modules over 240 hours of course time.
- Biology Stage 6 specific Course Requirements are outlined in the [Biology Stage 6 Syllabus \(2017\)](#) including, depth study hours, practical investigation hours and field work requirements.
- Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Biology Stage 6](#).

HSC examinations

- Details on the HSC Biology examination can be found at [Assessment and reporting in Biology Stage 6](#). The HSC Biology examination consists of a written paper worth 100 marks. The time allowed is 3 hours plus 5 minutes reading time.
- Past HSC papers by NESA, are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Biology can be found at [HSC exam papers](#).
- HSC standards materials by NESA, provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Biology Stage 6 standards materials](#) can be found on the NESA webpages.

Support materials

The Science curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Biology Stage 6 syllabus and can be located on:

- the [Biology](#) webpage. Here you will find module guides, sample scope and sequences, sample programs, sample assessment tasks and a range of teaching activities.
- the [Science Statewide Staffroom SharePoint](#) page. There is a specific page for Biology with a range of teaching and learning resources available.

NESA also has a range of support materials on the [Biology Stage 6 Syllabus \(2017\)](#) webpage.

Professional learning

There are a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Biology Stage 6 Syllabus (2017) including, [Using animals in schools professional learning](#), July 6 2023.

We also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. To view any upcoming events, go to the [Science Statewide Staffroom professional learning channel](#) to stay up to date.

General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.



Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email Science7-12@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [Science Statewide Staffroom](#).