

# WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

[WWW.LARNEDU.COM](http://WWW.LARNEDU.COM)

Visit [this link](#) for the necessary introductory information.

## DETAILED SYLLABUS

### SECTION A

**(FOR ALL CANDIDATES)**

| CONTENTS   | NOTES  |
|--|--|
| <p>A. <b>Concept of Living</b></p> <p>1. Classification</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) Living and non-living things</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) Differences between plants and animals.</p> <p>2. Organization of life</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) Levels of organization</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) cell (single-celled organisms):<br/><b>Amoeba, Euglena, Paramecium.</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) Tissue: <b>Hydra</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iii) Organ (storage organ) bulb, rhizome and heart.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iv) System: In mammals, flowering plants<br/>= reproductive system, excretory system etc.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) Complexity of organization in higher organisms: advantages and disadvantages.</p> | <p>Classification of objects into living and non-living, giving examples of each group.</p> <p>These examples should be used to illustrate differentiation and specialization in organisms.</p> <p>The significance of different levels of organization including volume/surface area ratio should be discussed.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <p>3. Cell as a living unit</p> <p>Forms in which living cells exist:</p> <p>(a) Single and free-living: <b>Amoeba, Paramecium, Euglena, and Chlamydomonas</b></p> <p>(b) Colony: <b>Volvox</b></p> <p>(c) Filament: <b>Spirogyra</b></p> <p>(d) Part of a living organism: Cheek cell, onion root tip cells and epidermis of fleshy leaves.</p> | <p>The structure of these organisms in relation to the forms of existence should be studied to illustrate dependence and interdependence.</p> <p>Distinguish groups of cells that form tissues from those that form colonies or filaments.</p>  |
| <p>4. (a) Cell structure and functions of cell components.</p> <p>(b) Similarities and differences between plant and animal cells.</p>   | <p>Cell structure should include: Cell wall, cell membrane, cytoplasm, cytoplasmic organelles: nucleus, mitochondria, lysosomes, chloroplast, endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, centrosomes, Golgi body, chromosome.</p> <p>The function performed by organelles should be known.</p> |
| <p>5. The Cell and its environment: Physical and Biophysical processes.</p> <p>(a) diffusion</p> <p>(b) osmosis</p> <p>(c) plasmolysis</p>   | <p>The significance of these processes should be discussed as factors that affect cell activities in its environment.</p> <p>Haemolysis, turgidity and cremation should be mentioned.</p>   |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES  |
|--|--|
| <p>6. Properties and functions of the living cell</p> <p>(a) Nutrition</p> <p>(i) Autotrophic (photosynthesis)</p> <p>(ii) Heterotrophic (holozoic)</p> <p>(iii) Mineral nutrition: Macro and micro-nutrients</p> <p>(b) Cellular respiration</p> <p>Definition and processes of:</p> <p>(i) aerobic respiration</p> <p>(ii) anaerobic respiration</p> <p>(iii) energy release</p> <p>(c) Excretion</p> <p>(i) Excretion in single celled aquatic organism. Diffusion by body surface; by contractile vacuole.</p> <p>(ii) Waste products of metabolism.</p> | <p>These should be discussed as processes occurring within living cells.</p> <p>Experiment to show the effects of mineral deficiencies in plants especially nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium should be carried out.</p> <p>Macro elements should include: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, sulphur, calcium and iron. The micro elements should include: copper, manganese, zinc and boron.</p> <p>A simplified outline of the chemical processes involved in glycolysis and Krebs's cycle; Reference should be made to the role of ATP.</p> <p>Reference should be made to carbon dioxide, water and ammonia as examples of waste products.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>(d) Growth</p> <p>(i) Basis of growth – cell division (mitosis), enlargement and differentiation.</p> <p>(ii) Aspects of growth: Increase in dry weight. Irreversible increase in size and length. Increase in number of cells.</p> <p>(iii) Regions of fastest growth in plants.</p> <p>(iv) Influence of growth hormones and auxins.</p> <p>(v) Growth curvatures (Tropisms)</p> | <p>Observation of root tip and shoot tip are required.</p> <p>Regulation of growth by hormones should be mentioned.</p> <p>Types of tropisms should be demonstrated.</p> <p>Microscopic examination of the different regions of growth and development: region of cell division; elongation; differentiation; maturation.</p> |
| <p>(e) Development: Enlargement and differentiation.</p>  |   |
| <p>(f) Reproduction:<br/>Types of reproduction.</p> <p>(i) Asexual: fission, Budding, vegetative propagation.</p> <p>(ii) Sexual: Conjugation, formation of male and female gametes (meiosis), fusion of gametes (fertilization).</p>   | <p>Prepared slides of:</p> <p>(a) fission in <b>Paramecium</b></p> <p>(b) budding in yeast and <b>Hydra</b>; should be observed and drawn. Reference should be made to artificial methods of vegetative propagation in flowering plants.</p> <p><u>Prepared</u> slides of conjugation should be studied.</p>                  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES  |
|--|--|
| <p>7. (a) Tissues and supporting systems:<br/>Skeleton and supporting systems in animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Biological significance.</li> <li>(ii) Skeletal materials, e.g. bone</li> <li>(iii) Types of skeleton: exoskeleton, endoskeleton.</li> <li>(iv) Bones of the vertebral column, girdles and long bones of the appendicular skeleton.</li> <li>(v) Mechanism of support in animals.</li> <li>(vi) Functions of skeleton in animals: Protection, support, locomotion, respiratory movement.</li> </ul> <p>(b) Different types of supporting tissues in plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Main features of supporting tissues in plants.</li> <li>(ii) Functions of supporting tissues in plants: strength, rigidity (resistance against the forces of the wind and water), flexibility and resilience.</li> </ul> | <p>The location and arrangement of skeletal and supporting tissues in animals should be mentioned. Candidates should be familiar with the general plan of mammalian skeleton and the different types of joints. They should be able to identify, draw, label and state the functions of the individual bones listed in the content column. Detailed structure of the skull will not be required. Histological structure of bones and cartilages will also not be required.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to explain how these functions are performed. The relationship of skeleton and muscles during movement should be used to illustrate the different functions of the skeleton.</p> <p>The different types of supporting tissues: turgid parenchyma; collenchyma, xylem (wood) sclerenchyma should be studied.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to cut and draw the low power of the T.S. of stem and root of a herbaceous plant and label the different tissues; epidermis, cortex, stele.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>8. Transport System:</p> <p>(a) Need for transportation:</p> <p>(i) surface area/volume ratio.</p> <p>(ii) substances have to move greater distances.</p> <p>(b) Composition and function of blood and lymph</p> <p>(c) Materials for transportation: excretory products, gases, digested food, and other nutrients.</p> <p>(d) Structure of the heart, arteries, veins, capillaries and vascular bundles.</p> | <p>Source of materials and forms in which they are transported and where they are transported to should be studied.</p> <p>Candidates should be familiar with the general circulatory system. The names of the blood vessels responsible for transporting excretory products, gases, digested food and other nutrients should be known. The detailed structure of the xylem and phloem is not required.</p> |
| <p>9. Respiratory System:</p> <p>(a) Body surface, cutaneous, gills, lungs.</p> <p>(b) Mechanisms of gaseous exchange in fish, toad, mammals and plants.</p>  | <p>Characteristics of respiratory surfaces in these systems should be studied.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to observe, draw and label the respiratory organs of a bony fish (<i>e.g. Tilapia</i>) and a small mammal (<i>e.g. rat</i>)</p> <p>Respiratory movements in these animals should be discussed. The mechanisms of opening and closing of stomata should be discussed.</p>                    |
| <p>10. Excretory Systems and Mechanisms</p> <p>Types of excretory systems: Kidney, stomata and lenticel.</p>  | <p>Characteristics of excretory organs in these systems should be studied.</p> <p>Candidates should observe, draw and label the excretory organs of a small mammal (<i>e.g. rat</i>).</p>   |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>11. Regulation of Internal Environment (Homeostasis)</p> <p>(a) Kidney: Structure and functions</p> <p>(b) Liver:<br/>Functions of the liver.</p> <p>(c) The skin:<br/>Structure and function</p> <p>12. Hormonal Coordination</p> <p>(a) Animal hormones:<br/>Site of secretion, functions and effects of over and under-secretion.</p> <p>(b) Plant hormones</p> | <p>Osmoregulation, excretion and maintenance of acid-base balance should be discussed. The conditions that affect functions of the kidney such as the water and salt content of the blood, environmental temperature.</p> <p>Excretory products such as urea, water, salts, uric acid should be discussed.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to identify the liver; and its position relative to the gall bladder, bile duct, pancreas, duodenum and stomach.</p> <p>Candidates should observe, draw and label the mammalian skin. The regulation of internal environment by the skin should be emphasized.</p> <p>Endocrine glands: pituitary, thyroid, adrenal, pancreas, gonads and their secretions should be discussed. The role of thyroxine in the metamorphosis of toad should be mentioned.</p> <p>Demonstration of the effects of auxins on lateral bud development, leaf fall and initiation of adventitious roots should be carried out.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p>13. Nervous Coordination</p> <p>(a) The central nervous system</p> <p>(i) Components of the central nervous system</p> <p>(ii) Parts of the brain and their functions; cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, hypothalamus and their functions</p> <p>(iii) Structure and function of the Spinal Cord.</p> <p>(b) Peripheral Nervous System.</p> <p>(i) Somatic Nervous System</p> <p>(ii) Automatic nervous system.</p> <p>(iii) Structure and functions of the neurone.</p> <p>(iv) Classification of neurons.</p> <p>(c) Transmission of Impulses.</p> <p>(d) Types of nervous actions</p> <p>(i) Reflex and voluntary actions</p> <p>(ii) The reflex arc</p> | <p>Candidates should be able to locate the position of the brain and spinal cord in a dissected vertebrate and identify the various regions of the brain.</p> <p>Functions of the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems only.</p> <p>Candidates should observe, draw and label a neurone from a slide.</p> <p>Afferent (sensory), efferent (motor) and intermediate neurones should be mentioned.</p> <p>Simple treatment of transmission of nerve impulses by a change in electrical potential is required.</p> <p>Candidates should perform experiments to illustrate reflex actions such as blinking of the eyes, knee jerk, and withdrawal of hand from hot objects.</p> |



WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>(iii) Differences between reflex and voluntary actions.</p> <p>14. Sense Organs:</p> <p>(a) Structure and function of the eye and ear.</p> <p>(b) The skin</p> <p>15 (a) Reproductive system of mammals</p> <p>(i) Structure and function of male and female reproductive systems.</p> <p>(ii) Differences between male and female reproductive organs.</p> <p>(iii) Structure of the gametes (sperm and ovum)</p> <p>(iv) Fertilization, development of the embryo and birth.</p> <p>(b) (i) Stages in the development of toad.</p> <p>(ii) Metamorphosis in insects, life histories of housefly/butterfly and cockroach.</p> | <p>Candidates should examine the mammalian eye noting the shape, colour and positions of the optic muscle and optic nerve.</p> <p>Mention should be made of eye defects and their correction.</p> <p>The function of the skin as a sensory organ should be emphasized.</p> <p>Candidates should examine and draw dissected male and female mammals showing the reproductive organs. They should also draw sperm and ovum from prepared slides or from fresh specimens.</p> <p>The different stages of the tadpole should be drawn and labelled.</p> <p>These examples should be used to illustrate complete and incomplete metamorphosis. The period it takes to develop from egg to adult should be studied. The different stages in the life history of butterfly/housefly should be drawn and labelled.</p> |
|---|--|

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>(c) Comparison of reproduction in fish, amphibia, reptile, bird and mammal.</p> <p>(d) Reproduction of flowering plants</p> <p>(i) Arrangements of floral parts of a named insect pollinated flower and a named wind pollinated flower.</p> <p>(ii) Structure and function of the male and female parts of a flower.</p> <p>(e) Pollination in Plants</p> <p>(i) Types of pollination</p> <p>(ii) Features of cross-pollinated and self pollinated flowers</p> <p>(iii) Agents of Pollination</p> <p>(f) Process of Development of Zygote in flowering plants: Fertilization.</p> <p>(g) (i) Structure of fruits</p> <p>(ii) Types of fruits (classification).</p> | <p>Reference should be made to the method of fertilization, number of eggs and parental care.</p> <p>Named examples should be used to illustrate the types of pollination.</p> <p>The features of the flower should be related to the agents of pollination.</p> <p>Pollen grains germinated in sucrose solution should be observed, prepared slides showing various stages of embryo development in flowering plants should be observed and drawn.</p> <p>Fruits should be classified into dry and fleshy fruits. The internal structure of a leguminous fruit, orange, maize and tomato should be examined and drawn.</p> |
|---|---|

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p>(h) Dispersal of fruits and seeds</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Agents of dispersal</p> <p>(i) Germination of seeds</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(i) Essential factors which affect developing embryo.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(ii) Types of germination</p>   | <p>The following fruits should be studied as examples to show the features that aid their respective methods of dispersal. Sunflower (achene) <b>Combretum</b>, cotton, <b>Crotolaria</b>/bean, <b>Desmodium</b>, Bidens Spp. And coconut.</p> <p>Distinguishing differences between a fruit and a seed should be mentioned.</p> <p>Experiments to show the importance of oxygen, adequate moisture and suitable temperature, should be carried out.</p> <p>The stages in hypogeal and epigeal germination should be observed and drawn.</p> |
| <p><b>B. Plant and Animal Nutrition</b></p> <p>Plant Nutrition</p> <p>1 (a) Photosynthesis:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) Process of photosynthesis and its chemical equation</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) Light and dark reactions</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iii) Materials and conditions necessary for photosynthesis</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iv) Evidence of photosynthesis</p> <p>(b) Mineral requirement of plants</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) Soil and atmosphere as source of Mineral elements</p> | <p>Biochemical nature of photosynthesis, photoactivation of chlorophyll resulting in the conversion of light energy to ATP and the reduction of NADP (no biochemical detail is required)</p> <p>The translocating and storage of excess food as a result of photosynthesis should be mentioned. Test for starch in green leaves should be carried out.</p> <p>Candidates should distinguish between food produced and mineral elements.</p>  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>2. Animal Nutrition</p> <p>(a) Food substances; classes and sources</p> <p>(b) Balanced diet and its importance</p> <p>(c) Food tests</p> <p>(d) Digestive enzymes</p> <p>Classes, characteristics and functions</p> <p>(e) Modes of Nutrition</p> <p>(i) Autotrophic: Photosynthesis,</p> <p>(ii) Heterotrophic, holozoic, parasitic, symbiotic, and saprophytic.</p> <p>(f) Alimentary System: Alimentary tract of different animals.</p> <p>(g) Feeding in protozoa, and mammals</p> | <p>Local examples as sources of food substance should be given. Reference should be made to food relationship between plants and animals.</p> <p>Importance of each class of food in balanced diet should be stressed. Candidates should relate the idea of balanced diet to their own diet.</p> <p>Tests for starch, reducing sugar, protein, fats and oil should be carried out.</p> <p>Candidates should perform experiments to show that ptyalin in saliva changes cooked starch to reducing sugar.</p> <p>Candidates should know source, site of action, substrate and effect of each digestive enzyme.</p> <p>Experiments to show the characteristics of enzymes, including effects of pH, temperature and concentration, should be carried out.</p> <p>Named examples should be used to illustrate different modes of nutrition.</p> <p>Comparison should be made using dissected named bird and mammal.</p> <p>Reference should be made to feeding habits in protozoa and mammals. Adaptation of teeth and dentition in mammals (herbivore, carnivore and omnivore) should be studied.</p> |
|--|--|

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>C. Basic Ecological Concepts</b></p> <p>1. Ecosystem:</p> <p>Components of the ecosystem and sizes</p> <p>(a) Ecological components: environment, biosphere, habitat, population, biotic community, ecosystem.</p> <p>(b) Components of the ecosystem: Biotic, and abiotic.</p> <p>2. Ecological factors:</p> <p>Ecological factors in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems</p> <p>3. Simple Measurement of Ecological Factors.</p> <p>(a) Physical factors: Climatic, topographic and gaseous.</p> <p>(b) Edaphic factors: Chemical and physical composition, moisture content and soil texture.</p> <p>4. Food Webs and Trophic levels</p> <p>(a) Autotrophs and Heterotrophs</p> | <p>Examples and explanation are required.</p> <p>Importance of ecological factors common to all habitats should be mentioned. The importance of ecological factors to population of animals and plants should be stressed.</p> <p>Candidates should make histograms or graphs using rainfall and temperature data and interpret graphs showing ecological factors of a habitat.</p> <p>Candidates should measure some of the ecological factors including humidity, temperature, wind speed, rainfall, and light intensity.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to classify organisms as producers, consumers and decomposers.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Producers: autotrophs</li> <li>(ii) Consumers: heterotrophs</li> <li>(iii) Decomposers</li> </ul> <p>(b) Trophic Levels Energy relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Food chain</li> <li>(ii) Food web</li> </ul> <p>(c) Energy flow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Food/Energy relationship in aquatic and terrestrial environment.</li> <li>(ii) Pyramid of energy and Pyramid of numbers</li> </ul> | <p>Aquatic and terrestrial producers, consumers and decomposers should be known.</p> <p>Candidates should illustrate food relationship in a food chain and food web using specific examples.</p> <p>Non-cyclic nature of energy transfer should be mentioned.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to construct and explain pyramid of energy, pyramid of numbers and point out the major differences between them.</p> |
| <p>5. Energy Transformation in Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Energy loss in the ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Solar radiation: its intake and loss at the earth's surface.</li> <li>(ii) Energy loss in the biosphere.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <p>Candidates should discuss energy as a limiting factor in primary production i.e. production of autotrophs.</p> <p>Reference should be made to harvest as a means of measuring primary production.</p>  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES  |
|--|--|
| <p>(b) Decomposition in Nature</p> <p>(i) Decomposers:<br/>(micro and macro-decomposers)</p> <p>(ii) Gaseous products</p> <p>(iii) Role of decomposers</p>   | <p>Candidates should observe demonstrations to show that carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, heat energy are released during decomposition.</p>   |
| <p>6. Ecological Management</p> <p>(a) Associations</p> <p>Type of associations:<br/>Parasitism, symbiosis, commensalism and saprophytism.</p> <p>(b) Adaptation of organisms to habitats.</p> <p>(c) Pollution of the atmosphere</p> <p>(i) Nature, names, sources and effects of air pollutants.</p> <p>(ii) Effect of noise</p> | <p>Features of biological importance associated with each type should be discussed.<br/>Named examples should be used to illustrate these associations.</p> <p>Adaptations of plants and animals to environmental conditions with particular reference to differences in habitats should be discussed.</p> <p>Examples of air pollutants should include carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, smoke, smog, dust and particles released into the air from factories.</p> <p>Health hazards and damage to environment should be emphasized.</p> <p>Discuss harmful effect of noise from generators and electronic sound gadgets.</p> |

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p>(d) <b>Water and Soil Pollution</b></p> <p>Types, composition and effects of pollutants</p> <p>7. Ecology of Population</p> <p>(a) Ecological succession</p> <p>(i) Structural changes in species composition, variety or diversity and increase in numbers.</p> <p>(ii) General characteristics and outcomes of succession</p> <p>(b) Primary succession. Succession in terrestrial habitats.</p> <p>(c) Secondary succession, climax of the succession: characteristic of a stable ecosystem.</p> <p>(d) Factors that may cause overcrowding: natality and immigration, survival rate.</p> | <p>Water and soil pollutants to be studied include: synthetic substances, (detergent) insecticides, artificial fertilizers, herbicides, sewage, domestic and industrial wastes, crude oil and decaying organic matter. The health hazards and harmful effects of water and soil pollutants on organisms should be discussed. Mention should be made of oil spillage and its effects</p> <p>Candidates should study succession in an abandoned farmland, lawn, over a period of time to discover a definite sequence of colonising plants.</p> <p>Reference should be made to population. Candidates should determine the space available for each member of the class when:</p> <p>(i) only the class members are present</p> <p>(ii) members from another class are added. Using the following formula</p> $\text{Space} = \frac{\text{Area of habitat}}{\text{Number of Organisms}}$ |



WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p>8. Micro-organisms: Man and health</p> <p>(a) Carriers of micro-organisms</p> <p>(b) Micro-organisms in action</p> <p>(i) Beneficial effects in nature, medicine and industries.</p> <p>(ii) Harmful effects of micro-organisms, diseases caused by micro-organisms: cholera, measles, malaria and ring worm.</p> <p>(c) Towards better Health</p> <p>(i) Methods of controlling harmful micro-organisms, high temperature, anti biotics, antiseptics, high salinity and dehydration.</p> <p>(ii) Ways of controlling the vectors.</p> | <p>Effects of micro organisms on our bodies should be discussed.<br/>Examples of carriers: housefly; mosquitoes; tsetsefly should be mentioned.</p> <p>Candidates should perform experiments on fermentation and curdling of milk to illustrate the beneficial uses of micro-organisms.</p> <p>The diseases should be studied with respect to the causative organisms, mode of transmission and symptoms.</p> <p>Effects of these methods on the micro-organisms should be discussed.</p> <p>Methods of controlling housefly and mosquito should be studied.</p> |
| <p><b>D. Conservation of Natural Resources:</b></p> <p>1. Resources to be conserved: soil, water, wildlife, forest and minerals.</p>  | <p>The meaning and need for conservation of natural resources should be discussed.</p> <p>Problems of conservation should be discussed in relation to economic, and social development, overgrazing and poaching.</p>  |

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <p>2. Ways of ensuring conservation</p>  | <p>The following should be studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) agencies responsible for conservation</li> <li>(b) conservation education</li> <li>(c) conservation laws.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>E. Variation in Population</b></p> <p>1. Morphological variations in the physical appearance of individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) size, height, weight</li> <li>(b) colour (skin, eye, hair coat of animals)</li> <li>(c) finger prints</li> </ul> <p>2. Physiological Variations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Ability to roll tongue</li> <li>(b) Ability to taste phenylthiocarbamide (PTC)</li> <li>(c) Blood groups (ABO classification)</li> </ul> | <p>Candidates are required to measure heights and weights of pupils of the same age group and plot graphs of frequency distribution of the height and weight.</p> <p>Observe and record various skin colour, colour pattern of some animals (cow, goat, rabbits), colour pattern of plants (maize cob and leaves). Make finger prints and classify them into arches, loops, whorls and compounds.</p> |
| <p><b>F. Biology of Heredity (Genetics)</b></p> <p>1. Transmission and expression of characteristics in organisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Hereditary variation</li> <li>(b) Mendel's work in genetics</li> </ul>   | <p>Reference should be made to characters that can be transmitted from generation to generation such as colour of skin, eye and hair, blood group, sickle cell, shape of face and nose.</p> <p>Mendel's experiment with red and white flowered pea should be reviewed and discussed.</p>  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| (i) Mendel's experiments  | Candidates are required to determine the ratio of grains of different colours in the maize cob and compare their findings with that obtained by Mendel in monohybrid inheritance.                     |
| (ii) Mendelian traits   | Reference should be made to dominant and recessive characters in plants and animals.  |
| (iii) Mendelian laws  |   |
| 2. Chromosomes: The basis of heredity   | Candidates should observe chromosomes in permanently prepared slides of cells and root tips of onion or lily.   |
| (a) Structure   | Simple treatment of DNA will be required.   |
| (b) Process of transmission of hereditary characters from parents to offspring. | Segregation of genes at meiosis and recombination at fertilization should be used to explain the process of transmission of hereditary characters from parents to offspring.                          |
| 3. Probability in genetics  | Computation of probability is not required.   |
| 4. Application of the principles of heredity in:                                | Data on cross-breeding experiments should be studied.   |
| (a) Agriculture   | Examples of new varieties of crop and livestock obtained through cross-breeding should be mentioned. The advantages and disadvantages of cross-fertilization, out and inbreeding should be explained. |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>(b) Medicine</p> <p><b>G. Evolution</b></p> <p>1. Behavioural Adaptations in Social animals</p> <p>(a) Termites</p> <p>(b) Bees</p> <p>2. Theories of evolution</p> <p>(a) Larmack's theory</p> <p>(b) Darwin's theory</p> | <p>The application of knowledge, of heredity in marriage counselling with particular reference to sickle cell anaemia and rhesus factor should be mentioned.</p> <p>Candidates should be able to identify the various castes of social insects.</p> <p>The division of labour in social insects and the roles of different castes should be stressed. Examples of communication among animals such as contact notes and warning cries should be discussed. Reference should be made to basking by lizard, territorial behaviour in birds and lizards and behaviour of other animals under unfavourable conditions-hibernation and aestivation. The behaviour of an organism as a member of a group and the effect of grouping on the behaviour of an organism should be mentioned.</p> <p>Reference should be made to organic evolution. The contributions of Larmack and Darwin to the development of the theory of evolution should be discussed.</p> <p>Evidences for evolution such as fossil records, comparative anatomy and physiology and embryology should be known.</p> <p>Candidates are expected to know the evolutionary trends in plants and animals such as from simple to complex structural adaptations and from aquatic to terrestrial organisms.</p> |

**SECTION B**  
**FOR CANDIDATES IN GHANA, SIERRA LEONE AND THE GAMBIA**

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1. INTRODUCING BIOLOGY</b></p> <p>(a) Biology as a Science</p> <p>(b) The microscope</p> <p><b>2. THE CELL</b></p> <p>(a) Types of cells</p> <p>(b) Specialized eukaryotic cells</p> <p>(c) DNA and protein synthesis</p> <p><b>3. THE DIVERSITY OF LIVING THINGS</b></p> <p>(a) Classification of living things</p> <p>(b) Identifying living things using key</p> <p>(c) The main characteristics of major phyla and divisions of the kingdom</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) Prokaryotae</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) Protoctista</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iii) Fungi</p> | <p>The importance of Biology and the scientific method should be stressed.</p> <p>Parts of the microscope. Preparation of wet/temporary mounts.</p> <p>Viral, bacterial, plants and animal cells as examples of akaryotic, prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells respectively.</p> <p>The structure and function of red blood cells, sperm cells, leaf epidermal cells, nerve cells, palisade cells.</p> <p>Treatment should include the role of RNA, TRNA and ribosome only. Detailed structure of these not required.</p> <p>Classification of organisms according to kingdom. Phylum/division, class, order, family, genus, species.</p> <p>Only dichotomous key is required</p> <p>Viruses should be treated as a group that share the same characteristic with living and non living things.</p> <p>The main characteristics of major phyla of the kingdom protoctista: Rhizopoda e.g. <b>Amoeba</b></p> <p>Zoomastigina e.g. <b>Trypanosoma</b>, Apicomplexa (Sporozoa) e.g. <b>Plasmodium</b>. Ciliophora e.g. Paramecium, Euglenophyta e.g. <b>Euglena</b>, Oomycota (Slime moulds) e.g. <b>Phytophthora</b>, Chlorophyta e.g. <b>Spirogyra</b>, Rhodophyta (red algae), Phaeophyta (brown algae)</p> <p>The main characteristics of major phyla of the Kingdom Fungi: Zygomycota e.g. yeast <b>Xylaria</b> <b>Cookeina</b></p> |



WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Arthropoda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• class Crustacea, class Chilopoda (Centipedes)</li> <li>• class Diplopoda (Millipedes), class Insecta,</li> <li>• class Arachnida. Distinguishing features of the following orders of the class insecta are required: Odonata, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera, Isoptera</li> </ul> <p>Chordata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• class Chondrichthyes (cartilagenous fishes)</li> <li>• class Osteichthyes (bonyfish) class Amphibia,</li> <li>• class Reptilia, class Aves and class Mammalia</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>4. LIFE PROCESSES IN LIVING THINGS</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Amoeba</b></p> <p><b>Paramecium</b></p> <p><b>Euglena</b></p> <p>(b) Spirogyra, Rhizopus</p> <p>(c) Mosses and Ferns</p> <p>(d) Cockroach and Butterfly</p> <p>(e) Tilapia (or any other bony fish)</p> <p>Toad (<b>Bufo</b>) or Frog (<b>Rana</b>)</p> <p>(f) Flowering Plants</p> <p>(i) External structure of monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants</p> | <p>In studying this section, relationship between structure and function is required.</p> <p>External structures, movement, osmoregulation, nutrition, reproduction, respiration.</p> <p>Emphasis on Euglena exhibiting plant, as well as some animal features is required.</p> <p>Nutrition and reproduction only</p> <p>Reproduction in Mosses and ferns. Details of structure of antheridia and archegonia of fern are not required.</p> <p>Nutrition, respiration, excretion, irritability and movement for the cockroach only.</p> <p>Nutrition, respiration, excretion, movement and reproduction</p> <p>Differences between toad and frog. In this section adaptations to their various environments are required.</p> <p>Root, stem and leaf and their modifications. Internal structure of root, stem and leaf should be treated with respect to their functions. Examination of these structures under the microscope is required.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| (ii) Internal structure of roots, stem and leaf  | Structural adaptations of the leaf for photosynthesis. Factors affecting the rate of photosynthesis; light, temperature and carbon dioxide concentration.   |
| (iii) Nutrition<br>Photosynthesis  | Fixation and reduction of Carbon dioxide. In treating the Calvin cycle; only the following compounds should be mentioned; Ribulose-disphosphate, unstable carbon compounds diphospho glyceraldehyde, glucose and starch. Conversion of starch to fat and protein should be mentioned. Details of the conversion not required. |
| (g) Excretion and Excretory products.  | Treatment should include water, carbon dioxide, oxygen, alkaloids, tannin, acid, resin, gum.  |
| (h) Reproduction<br>(i) Floral formula<br>(ii) Pollination                                     | <b>Caesalpinia Sp, Croton Sp</b> , floral diagram not required.<br>Agents (wind and insect) mechanism and adaptation  |
| (i) Growth and Development:<br>Primary and Secondary growth                                    | Simple measurement of growth by increase in length, area/volume and mass<br>Graphical representation of growth data are required  |
| (j) Dentition  | Tooth structure.<br>Dental care should also be stressed.  |
| (k) Respiration<br><br>Cell tissue<br>respiration principles of aerobic and anaerobic pathways | The importance of anaerobic respiration in food processing<br><br>Observation, drawing and labelling of the transverse section of a bone from a slide under the microscope is required. Types of muscle: smooth, striated and cardiac muscle. Examination of different types of muscle is required.                           |
| (l) Movement<br>Action of muscles on bones to effect Movement                                  | Locomotion should be treated in a named mammal.   |
| (m) Reproduction<br>(i) Testis and Ovary<br><br>(iii) Secondary Sexual characters              | Structure and function. Histological study is required but developmental stages are not required.<br><br>The role of hormones in development of secondary sexual characteristics is required.   |



WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>5. <b>ECONOMIC IMPORTANT OF SOME INSECTS</b></p>   | <p>The structure, mode of life, and economic importance of weevil, termites, cotton stainers, grasshoppers, honey bee are required.</p>   |
| <p>6. <b>SOIL</b></p> <p>(a) Soil Formation</p> <p>(b) Soil Components</p> <p>(c) Mineral Salts</p> <p>(d) Organic matter</p> <p>(i) Water Content</p> <p>(ii) Air Content</p> <p>(iii) Living organisms in the soil</p> <p>(e) Physical nature and Properties of soil types</p> <p>(f) Conservation, maintenance and Renewal of Soil fertility</p> | <p>Sizes of soil particles should be noted. The following mineral salts, <math>Ca^{2+}</math>, <math>Fe^{2+}</math>, <math>Mg^{2+}</math>, and some anions e.g. <math>SO_4^{2-}</math>, <math>NO_3^-</math> are required</p> <p>Determination of organic matter, water, air, and living organisms, in the soil should be discussed.</p> <p>Activities to compare properties of sandy, loamy clayey soil regarding permeability, capillarity, pH, water holding capacity are required.</p> <p>The various methods used for conserving, maintaining and renewing soil fertility should be known: bush fallowing, surface terracing, contour ploughing, strip cultivation, crop rotation, manuring, irrigation, cover crops and mulching should be known.</p> <p>Activities to demonstrate the effect of these methods are required.</p> |
| <p>7. <b>FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS IN ECOLOGY</b></p> <p>Dominance, environment, energy flow</p> <p>Population dynamics</p>  | <p>The study should include energy flow in food chain and food webs, producers, consumers, decomposers tropic levels, pyramid of numbers, biomass and energy.</p> <p>Methods of determination of food chains and food webs should include direct observation and dissection.</p> <p>Population density, immigration, emigration, population growth. Method of measuring population: Sampling-transact, total counts, capture-mark-release-recapture methods are required.</p>   |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>8. MAN AND HIS BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>(a) Health and Hygiene</p> <p>(b) Community Health</p> <p>(i) Criteria for good housing</p> <p>(ii) Personal hygiene</p> <p>(iii) Water supply, source and purification</p> <p>(iv) First Aid</p> | <p>School buildings, siting, design, building materials orientation, surroundings, ventilation, and sanitation should be discussed.</p> <p>Study should include care of all parts of the body.</p> <p>The dangers posed by drug abuse including smoking, alcoholism should be emphasized.</p> <p>Mention should be made of ways through which drinking water may be contaminated and purified. Filtration should include the use of clean cloth and sand.</p> <p>First aid in cases of drowning, bleeding, snake bite, burns and scalds, fracture, fits, epilepsy, dislocation. fainting, the importance of methods employed in first and should be stressed.</p> |
| <p><b>9. GENETICS AND EVOLUTION</b></p> <p>(a) Genetic engineering.</p> <p>(b) DNA and gene replication.</p>   | <p>Candidates should know the meaning of genetic engineering.</p> <p>Candidates should study the structure and gene replication using models.</p>   |

**SECTION C**  
**(FOR CANDIDATES IN NIGERIA)**

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>A. CONCEPT OF LIVING</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Cell</li> <li>2. Cell's reaction to its environment               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Irritability as a basic characteristic of Protoplasm</li> <li>(b) Types of responses; taxis, nastism</li> <li>(c) Environmental factors that evoke responses: temperature, pH.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Movement               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Cyclosis,</li> <li>(b) Organelles for movement: cilia, flagella</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Tissues and supporting Systems, Skeletal supporting systems in animals.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Biological significance</li> <li>(b) Skeletal materials, e.g. chitin, cartilage</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Supporting tissues in plants</li> <li>6. Transport System               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Media of Transportation: Cytoplasm in cells, cell sap or latex in most plants, body fluid in invertebrates.</li> <li>(b) Mechanism of transportation in multicellular organisms, invertebrates higher animals and higher plants.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <p>The cell theory including the work of Hooke, Dujardin, Schleiden and Schwann should be outlined.</p> <p>Reference should be made to pseudopodia. The organelles should be observed from prepared slides.</p> <p>The different supporting tissues: turgid parenchyma, collenchma, xylem (wood) sclerenchyma should be studied.</p> <p>Compare and contrast various mechanisms of transportation. The following mechanisms should be mentioned – protoplasmic streaming, pumping of blood in higher animals, open circulatory system in invertebrates, transpiration pull, root pressure, and active transport in plants. Compare and contrast various mechanisms of transportation, experiments illustrating transport in plants should be performed.</p> |

**SECTION E  
(FOR CANDIDATES IN NIGERIA)**

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>7. Respiratory System:<br/>Stomata and lenticel in plants, tracheal system in insects.</p> <p>Mechanism of gaseous exchange in insects.</p>  | <p>Candidates should observe, draw and label the excretory organs of flatworm, earthworm and insect (e.g. cockroach).</p>                             |
| <p>8. (a) Excretory System and Mechanisms:</p> <p>Types: flame cell, nephridia, Malpighian tubes</p> <p>(b) Diseases of the kidney: Nephritis, kidney stone and diuresis, Their effects and remedy.</p> <p>(c) (i) Liver</p> <p>(ii) Diseases of the liver: infective hepatitis, cancer of the liver and gall stones, their effects and remedy.</p> <p>(d) The skin:<br/>Care of the mammalian skin</p> | <p>Excretory mechanism of earthworm and insects should be mentioned.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the need for regular washing of the body.</p> |
| <p>9. Hormonal Coordination<br/>Plant hormones<br/>Modern application of auxins</p>   | <p>Particular reference to crop harvesting, growth, and weed control should be made.</p>  |
| <p>10. Nervous Coordination, Peripheral Nervous System, Conditioned reflex and its role on behaviour.</p>   | <p>Candidates should be able to enumerate conditioned reflexes such as salivation, driving a car, walking and swimming.</p>                           |
| <p>11. Sense Organs<br/>(a) The skin as a sense organ.<br/>Sensations received by the skin: touch, pressure, pain, cold and heat.</p>   |   |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p>(b) Organ of smell<br/>(c) Organ of taste</p>  | <p>The process of perception of smell including the roles of sensory cells in nose and olfactory lobes should be studied. Mention should be made of taste buds.</p> <p>Experiments should be carried out to determine the different areas of the tongue associated with different tastes. The association between the organs of taste and smell should be discussed</p>  |
| <p>12. Reproduction</p> <p>(a) Courtship behaviour in animals:</p> <p>(i) Pairing<br/>(ii) Display e.g. peacocks<br/>(iii) Territoriality<br/>(iv) Seasonal migration associated with breeding in herrings, eels and birds.</p> <p>(b) Adaptive features in a developing animal:</p> <p>(i) Yolk in egg of fish, toad and birds for nourishment</p> <p>(ii) Placenta in animals</p> <p>(iii) Kinds of placentation: axile, marginal and parietal</p> <p>(c) Structure of a monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous embryo</p> <p>(d) Fruits<br/>Development of fruits and seed and ovary wall</p> | <p>Courtship pattern in male and female animals and territorialism in lizards should be observed.</p> <p>The content (yolk and albumen) of birds' egg should be examined.</p> <p>Candidates should observe the connection of the foetus to the mother and the adaptive features of the placenta, umbilical cord and amnion in a dissected pregnant rat.</p> <p>The meaning of oviparity and viviparity should be discussed.</p> <p>Location of the position of embryo in seed should be noted. External changes which take place in fertilized ovum should be discussed.</p> |
| <p><b>B. PLANT AND ANIMAL NUTRITION</b></p>   |  |
| <p>1. (a) Nitrogen cycle</p>  | <p>The names and roles of bacteria involved in nitrogen cycle should be known. Candidates to observe root nodules in leguminous plants.</p>  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <p>2. (b) Modes of nutrition:<br/>autotrophic, chemosynthetic,<br/>carnivorous plants</p> <p>(c) Alimentary System</p> <p>(i) Alimentary tracts of<br/>different animals</p> <p>(ii) Description and function of<br/>various parts.</p> <p>(iii) Modifications of parts as<br/>they affect their digestive<br/>function.</p> <p>(d) Feeding habits</p> <p>(i) Categories: Carnivorous,<br/>herbivorous and omnivorous</p> <p>(ii) Modifications and<br/>mechanisms associated with<br/>the following habits: filter<br/>feeding, fluid feeding, feeding<br/>adaptation in insects,<br/>saprophytic feeding, parasitic<br/>feeding</p> <p>(e) Feeding in <b>Hydra</b></p> | <p>Example of carnivorous plants should be studied.</p> <p>Comparison should be made using dissected earthworm, grasshopper/cockroach to show the important features of the alimentary canal.</p> <p>Use a bird and cockroach/grasshopper to show modifications for functions</p> <p>Mosquito larva, housefly, butterfly, cockroach, adult mosquito, maize weevil, rhizopods, tapeworm should be used to illustrate the different types of feeding mechanisms and various modification.</p> <p>Reference should be made to feeding habits in <b>Hydra</b></p> |
| <p><b>C. BASIC ECOLOGICAL CONCEPTS</b></p>   |   |
| <p>1. Ecological Components:<br/>Lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere,<br/>niche</p>   | <p>Candidates are expected to explain and give examples of the terms.</p>   |
| <p>2. Local biotic communities or biomes</p> <p>(a) Tropical rain forest</p> <p>(b) Southern Guinea savanna</p> <p>(c) Northern Guinea savanna</p> <p>(d) Sahel</p> <p>(e) Desert</p> <p>(f) Swamp/estuarine</p>   | <p>Identify these local biotic communities and associate each state in Nigeria with a particular biotic community.</p>  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <p>3. Major Biomes of the World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Tropical forest</li> <li>(b) Savanna</li> <li>(c) Desert</li> <li>(d) Shrub</li> <li>(e) Afro Alpine</li> <li>(f) Swamp</li> </ul>  | <p>Difference in structure should be mentioned and contrast between the temperate regions and the tropics should be stressed.</p>   |
| <p>4. Population Studies by Sampling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Population size</li> <li>(b) Dominance</li> <li>(c) Density</li> <li>(d) Factors that affect population</li> </ul>   | <p>Candidates are required to carry out a project to determine population density by counting the individual types of plants and animals and record such count in a given plot.</p>   |
| <p>5. Energy transformation in nature:</p> <p>Energy loss in the biosphere</p>   | <p>Reference should be made to harvest as a means of measuring primary production.</p> <p>Laws of thermodynamics and its application to ecological phenomena should be discussed. The laws of thermodynamic should be used to explain energy flow across tropic levels.</p>   |
| <p>6. Nutrient Cycling in Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Carbon Cycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Process of carbon cycle</li> <li>(ii) Importance of carbon in nature.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) Water Cycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Importance of water cycle,</li> <li>(ii) Importance of water to living organisms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Candidates should be able to draw the carbon cycle, list the sources of carbon (burning, respiration, decay) and discuss the relative importance of the cycle.</p> <p>Reference should be made to carbon dioxide-oxygen balance in nature. Candidates should carry out experiments to show absorption of carbon dioxide and release of oxygen during photosynthesis.</p> <p>Candidates should carry out experiments to show the presence of water in expired air and that water is given off during respiration.</p> |
| <p>7. Ecological Management: Tolerance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Minimum and maximum range,</li> <li>(b) Geographic range</li> </ul>  | <p>Candidates should perform experiments to show the limit of tolerance of Tilapia to various concentrations of salt solution or sensitivity of wood lice to temperature.</p> <p>Reference should be made to geographical distribution of organisms from the equator to the poles as example of geographic range of tolerance.</p>  |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS  | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <p>8. Habitats</p> <p>(a) Aquatic habitat: marine, estuarine fresh water under the following headings:</p> <p>(i) characteristics of habitat</p> <p>(ii) distribution of plants and animals in the habitat.</p> <p>(iii) adaptive features of plants and animals in the habitat.</p> <p>(b) Terrestrial habitat: marsh forest, grass land, arid land should be studied under the following headings:</p> <p>(i) characteristics of habitat</p> <p>(ii) distribution of plants and animals in habitat.</p> <p>(c) Primary Succession:<br/>Succession in aquatic habitat</p> <p>(d) Balance in Nature</p> <p>(i) Dynamic equilibrium population and population density</p> <p>(ii) Factors affecting a population</p> <p>(iii) Response of population to abiotic and biotic factors.</p> <p>(e) Population growth and Food Supply</p> <p>(i) Relationship between availability of food and human population.</p> <p>(ii) Family Planning</p> <p>(iii) Factors that affect availability of food.</p> | <p>One of the mentioned habitats should be chosen for study. Measurement of physical factors: temperature, salinity, light intensity, turbidity, current, pH, should be carried out.</p> <p>The pattern of distribution including dominant types and seasonal changes of population, size of organisms in the habitat should be noted.</p> <p>One of the mentioned habitats should be studied. The measurement of the physical factors, temperature, relative humidity, light, wind, and pH should be carried out.</p> <p>Reference should be made to edaphic factors.</p> <p>The effect of physical factors on distribution of plants and animals should be mentioned.</p> <p>Candidates should study succession in a pond over a period of time to discover a definite sequence of colonising plants.</p> <p>The process by which carnivores maintain a constant population should be discussed.</p> <p>Reference should be made to pest, abiotic factors; temperature, space, water and light.</p> <p>Biotic factors; food, competition, mortality, dispersal, parasites, pathogens and predators.</p> <p>Candidates should carry out experiments to show the effects of limited food on mice population. Reference should be made to the effect of food shortage on human population during famine</p> <p>Human population and family planning should be discussed.</p> |



WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES   |
|--|---|
| <p>9. Food production and storage</p> <p>(a) Factors affecting food production and storage</p> <p>(b) Causes of wastage</p> <p>(c) Food shortage</p> <p>(i) Causes of food shortage</p> <p>(ii) Effect of food shortage on the size of population. Competition, emigration, decline in rate of reproduction and mortality.</p> <p>(d) Methods of preserving and storing food, salting, drying, smoking, refrigeration, canning and use of chemicals.</p> <p>(e) Ways of improving crop yield</p> | <p>Reference should be made to factors affecting food production, distribution, (transport and roads), and government's efforts to increase food production.</p> <p>The effect of harvesting method, storage, and pest should be known.</p> <p>Reference should be made to effects of drought, and diseases e.g. rinderpest on food production.</p> <p>Candidates should perform experiments using rats or <b>Zonocerus</b> with adequate/inadequate supply of food to observe their behavior over a period of time.</p> <p>The principles involved in using these methods of food preservation should be discussed. Reference should be made to their effects on flavour and quality of food.</p> <p>Reference should be made to cross breeding, pest control, improved farming technique and use of fertilizer.</p> |
| <p>10. Relevance of Biology to Agriculture</p> <p>(a) Classification of plants</p> <p>(b) Effects of agricultural practices on ecology</p> <p>(i) Bush burning</p> <p>(ii) Tillage</p> <p>(iii) Fertilizer</p> <p>(iv) Herbicide/pesticide</p> <p>(v) Different farming methods.</p>   | <p>Candidates should classify plants using the following criteria:</p> <p>(i) botanical classification</p> <p>(ii) agricultural classification</p> <p>(iii) classification based on life cycle.</p> <p>Effects of human activities on ecological systems should be discussed.</p>   |

| CONTENTS  | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <p>(c) Pests and Disease of agricultural importance</p> <p>(i) Pests</p> <p>(ii) Diseases</p> <p>11. Micro organisms: Man and His Health.</p> <p>(a) Micro-organisms around us</p> <p>(i) Micro-organisms in air and water</p> <p>(ii) Groups of micro-organisms bacteria, viruses, some algae, protozoa and some fungi.</p> <p>(b) Micro-organisms in our bodies and food</p> <p>(c) Public Health:</p> <p>The importance of the following to the maintenance of good health: refuse disposal, sewage disposal, protection of water, food hygiene, control of disease, health organisations.</p> <p><b>D. Benefits of Conservation</b></p> | <p>The effect of pest on crop and livestock with respect to their cycle and control should be studied using specific examples.</p> <p>The effect of diseases on crops and livestock with respect to their causative organisms and control should be studied using specific examples.</p> <p>Micro-organisms in air, water and expired air should be observed and identified by their colour, pattern of growth and appearance of their colony.</p> <p>Micro-organisms under the finger nails, mouth cavity, expired air, and decomposing food substance should be observed and identified by their colour, pattern of growth, and appearance of colony.</p> <p>Candidates should be familiar with the proper methods of carrying out these public health activities in their community. Reference should be made to the roles of national and international health organisations in maintenance of good public health. Various forms of immunisation should be mentioned.</p> <p>Reference should be made to prevention of erosion, prevention of desert encroachment, protection of plant and game animals for planned harvesting and regulating the use of minerals.</p> |

WASSCE / WAEC BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

| CONTENTS   | NOTES  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>E. Application of Variations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crime detection</li> <li>2. Blood transfusion</li> <li>3. Determination of paternity</li> </ol>   | <p>The uniqueness of each individual's finger print should be discussed in relation to crime detection.</p> <p>Reference should be made to importance of knowledge of blood groups in blood transfusion and determination of paternity.</p>  |
| <p><b>F. Evolution</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adaptation for survival               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Factors that bring about competition</li> <li>(b) Intra and Interspecies competition</li> <li>(c) Relationship between competition and succession</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Structural Adaptation for:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) obtaining food</li> <li>(b) protection and defence</li> <li>(c) securing mates for reproduction</li> <li>(d) regulating body temperature</li> <li>(e) conserving water</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Adaptive Colouration               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Plants and animals</li> <li>(b) Colouration and their functions</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Darwin's Theory of evolution</li> </ol> | <p>Reference should be made to the factors such as food, space, water, light and mates which organism share and form the basis of competition.</p> <p>The effects of intra-species competition should be observed by growing many seedlings of maize in a small area, while the effects of interspecies competition can be observed by planting many seedlings of maize and pepper in a small area.</p> <p>Candidates should observe competition and succession on a moistened exposed slice of bread over a period of time.</p> <p>Candidates should observe examples of organisms that show structural adaptation for obtaining food, escaping from enemies, securing mate, regulating body temperature and conserving water.</p> <p>Candidates are required to observe examples of adaptive colouration in plants and animals.</p> <p>Reference should be made to modern evolutionary theories (evidence from genetic studies and role of mutation in evolution).</p> |

Visit [www.Larnedu.com](http://www.Larnedu.com) for [WASSCE / WAEC Syllabus](#) on different subjects. [Larnedu](#) also provides lots of resources and information that will enable you to ace the WASSCE.

**Good luck!**