

## Comparison between HKDSE and International A-level - Biology

The Edexcel International Advanced Level in Biology comprises six units. Based on experience here at ITS Education Asia, HKDSE syllabus overlaps with around 90% of Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 (depending on elective choices). HKDSE students will encounter the skills to tackle the practical units 3 and 6, however they may find these units more challenging. A breakdown is listed below on the areas that are in International A-level, but not in the HKDSE syllabus.

In regards to the assessment methods of IAL exam, ITS would suggest HKDSE students work on data interpretation questions and essay questions, as those techniques are not honed in the HKDSE system.

If you have further enquiries, please contact ITS at +852 2116 3916 or by email at [info@itseducation.asia](mailto:info@itseducation.asia). ITS Education Asia is a full Edexcel academic centre in Hong Kong (Centre Number 92885). Further consultation is completely free of charge. You might also refer to the following FAQ page from ITS Education Asia <http://www.itseducation.asia/UK-faqs.htm>

<b>Unit 1: Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health</b>
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Gene mutations - (only in elective biotechnology)
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Principles of gene therapy; social and ethical issues - (only in elective biotechnology)
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<b>Unit 2: Development, Plants and the Environment</b>
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Uses of plant products
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<b>Unit 4: The Natural Environment and Species Survival</b>
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Evidence for global warming - (only in elective ecology)
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Structure of bacteria and viruses – (elective microbiology)
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<b>Unit 5: Energy, Exercise and Coordination</b>
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Control and functioning of heart; ventilation and cardiac output (only in elective physiology)
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The nervous system (only in elective physiology)
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Hormonal coordination (only in elective physiology)
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Human Genome Project (only in elective physiology)
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Imbalances in brain chemicals
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