

This document provides the structure of the questions in the SQA Higher Biology Past Papers (2015-2019) by: Knowledge/Skill; Key Area; Maximum Mark, and questions that performed as grade A marks. The course reports give further detail on how specific questions performed.

The key also indicates where content is no longer part of the course as a result of the revision of National Qualifications (RNQ).

| KU/Skill | Description |
|----------|---|
| dKU | Demonstrating Knowledge and understanding of biology by making statements, describing information, providing explanations and integrating knowledge |
| aKU | Applying knowledge and understanding of biology to new situations, interpreting information and solving problems |
| PLAN | Planning and designing experimental/fieldwork investigations to test given hypotheses or to illustrate particular effects |
| SEL | Selecting information from a variety of sources |
| PRES | Presenting information appropriately in a variety of forms |
| PROC | Processing information (using calculations and units, where appropriate) |
| PRED | Making predictions and generalisations based on evidence/information |
| CONC | Drawing valid conclusions and giving explanations supported by evidence/justification |
| IMPR | Suggesting improvements to experimental/fieldwork investigations |
| * | Performed as grade A mark |
| | Content not part of Revised Higher Biology Course |

| 2015-2018 SQA Higher Biology | | | | | 2019 SQA Higher Biology | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Question | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Question | 2019 |
| 1 | 1.5 (dKU) | 1.6b (dKU) | 1.1a (dKU) | 2.2c* (dKU) | 1 | 1.4b (dKU) |
| 2 | 1.3b (aKU) | 1.2b (dKU) | 1.1a (aKU) | 2.2b (dKU) | 2 | 1.3c* (aKU) |
| 3 | | 1.2b (PROC) | 1.1b (dKU) | 2.1c (aKU) | 3 | 1.2b (PRED) |
| 4 | 1.8b (dKU)* | 1.7b (aKU) | 1.2a (dKU) | 2.4a* (CONC) | 4 | 1.2b (aKU) |
| 5 | 1.8b (aKU) | 1.8b *(aKU) | 1.3a (dKU) | 2.1c (PLAN) | 5 | 1.7b (aKU) |
| 6 | 1.8b (SEL) | 1.8b *(aKU) | 1.7c (dKU) | 2.3b (dKU) | 6 | 1.6b (aKU) |
| 7 | | 2.1c (dKU) | 2.1c (aKU) | 2.2c* (SEL) | 7 | 1.7b (CONC) |
| 8 | 2.6a (PLAN) | 2.3b (dKU) | 2.1c (CONC) | 3.1b (dKU) | 8 | 1.7b (aKU) |
| 9 | | 2.5a (aKU) | 2.1a (aKU) | 3.1b* (IMPR) | 9 | 1.8b (aKU) |
| 10 | 2.4c (aKU) | 2.2a (CONC) | 2.6a (SEL) | 3.3c (aKU) | 10 | 2.1a (dKU) |
| 11 | 2.4d (CONC) | 2.2a *(dKU) | 2.4d (dKU) | 3.2b (PLAN) | 11 | 2.3a (PLAN) |
| 12 | 1.8c (PROC) | 2.2a (dKU) | 2.7b (aKU) | 3.6b (aKU) | 12 | 2.4d (dKU) |
| 13 | | 3.1a (IMPR) | 3.2c (dKU) | 3.1a* (PLAN) | 13 | 2.4b (dKU) |
| 14 | 3.1b (dKU)* | 3.1b *(dKU) | 3.1a (dKU) | 3.6a (aKU) | 14 | 2.6b (dKU) |
| 15 | | 3.1b (aKU) | 3.1a (PRED) | 1.4a (dKU) | 15 | 2.7b (aKU) |
| 16 | 3.1a (SEL) | | | 1.4b (dKU) | 16 | 2.6b (PROC) |
| 17 | 3.3c (aKU) | 3.1a *(SEL) | 3.5a (aKU) | | 17 | 3.2b (PLAN) |
| 18 | 3.6d (dKU) | | 3.1a (PROC) | 1.7b (aKU) | 18 | 2.6b (SEL) |
| 19 | 3.6b (dKU) | 3.6b (aKU) | 3.8b (dKU) | | 19 | 3.2c* (dKU) |
| 20 | | 3.4 (aKU) | | 1.8b* (dKU) | 20 | 3.3c (PRED) |
| | | | | | 21 | 3.2d (aKU) |
| | | | | | 22 | 3.4 (aKU) |
| | | | | | 23 | 3.6c (dKU) |
| | | | | | 24 | 3.6a (aKU) |
| | | | | | 25 | 3.7 (dKU) |

| 2015 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 1(a)(i) | dKU | 2.2a | 1 |
| 1(a)(ii) | dKU | 2.2a | 1 |
| 1(a)(iii) | aKU | 2.2a | 1 |
| 1(b)(i) | aKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 1(b)(ii) | aKU | 2.6a | 1 |
| 2(a) | aKU* | 2.7b | 1 |
| 2(b) | dKU | 2.7b | 1 |
| 2(c) | aKU* | 2.7b | 1 |
| 2(d) | dKU | 2.7b | 1 |
| 2(e)(i) | aKU* | 2.7b | 1 |
| 2(e)(ii) | aKU* | 2.7b | 1 |
| 3(a)(i) | PLAN | 2.2c | 1 |
| 3(a)(ii) | PLAN | 2.2c | 1 |
| 3(b) | CONC | 2.2c | 2 |
| 3(c) | PROC | 2.2c | 1 |
| 3(d) | dKU* | 2.2c | 1 |
| 4(a) | PROC | 2.5a | 1 |
| 4(b) | aKU | 2.5a | 2 |
| 4(c) | dKU | 2.5a | 1 |
| 4(d) | aKU | 2.5a | 1 |
| 5A | dKU* | 2.3b | 4 |
| 5B | dKU* | 2.1c | 4 |
| 6(a)(i) | dKU | 3.1b | 2 |
| 6(a)(ii) | aKU | 3.1b | 2 |
| 6(b)(i) | 1aKU,1PRED | 3.1b | 2 |
| 6(b)(ii) | 1dKU,1PLAN** | 3.2b | 2 |
| 7(a) | aKU | 3.5a | 1 |
| 7(b) | aKU | 3.5a | 2 |
| 7(c) | aKU* | 3.5a | 1 |
| 8(a) | aKU | 3.3d | 1 |
| 8(b) | aKU* | 3.8c | 1 |
| 8(c) | aKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 8(d) | aKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 9(a)(i) | SEL | 3.1a | 2 |
| 9(a)(ii) | PRED | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(a)(iii) | PROC* | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(b)(i) | PLAN* | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(b)(ii) | PROC | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(b)(iii)1 | CONC | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(b)(iii)2 | CONC | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(c) | dKU | 3.1a | 1 |
| 10(a) | aKU | 1.7b | 2 |
| 10(b) | aKU* | 1.7b | 2 |
| 10(c)(i) | PRED | 1.7b | 1 |
| 10(c)(ii) | dKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 11(a) | PROC* | 1.1c | 1 |
| 11(b) | SEL | 1.1c | 1 |
| 11(c) | PRES | 1.1c | 2 |
| 11(d) | CONC* | 1.1c | 1 |
| 11(e)(i) | aKU | 1.1c | 1 |
| 11(e)(ii) | dKU | 1.1c | 2 |
| 12(a)1 | CONC | 1.4b | 2 |
| 12(a)2 | CONC | 1.4b | 1 |
| 12(b) | PROC | 1.4b | 1 |
| 12(c)(i) | dKU | 1.4b | 1 |
| 12(c)(ii) | aKU* | 1.4b | 1 |
| 12(d) | dKU* | 1.4b | 1 |
| 13A(i) | dKU* | 1.3b | 5 |
| 13A(ii) | dKU | 1.3c | 4 |
| 13B(i) | dKU* | 1.6b | 4 |
| 13B(ii) | | | |

| 2016 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 1(a) | aKU | 1.3c | 1 |
| 1(b) | dKU | 1.3a | 1 |
| 1(c) | | | |
| 1(d) | dKU* | 1.3d | 2 |
| 2(a)(i) | dKU | 1.1b | 1 |
| 2(a)(ii) | dKU | 1.1b | 1 |
| 2(b) | dKU | 1.1b | 1 |
| 2(c)(i) | aKU* | 2.2a | 1 |
| 2(c)(ii) | dKU | 2.2a | 1 |
| 2(d) | aKU* | 2.2a | 1 |
| 3(a) | aKU | 1.4b | 1 |
| 3(b) | dKU* | 1.4a | 1 |
| 3(c) | dKU | 1.4b | 1 |
| 3(d) | dKU | 1.4b | 1 |
| 4(a)(i) | SEL | 1.4a | 2 |
| 4(a)(ii) | PROC | 1.4a | 1 |
| 4(a)(iii) | SEL | 1.4a | 1 |
| 4(b) | PRED | 1.4a | 2 |
| 4(c) | aKU | 1.4a | 2 |
| 5(a)(i) | aKU | 1.7c | 1 |
| 5(a)(ii) | dKU* | 1.7c | 1 |
| 5(a)(iii) | aKU* | 1.7c | 1 |
| 5(b)(i) | | | |
| 5(b)(ii) | | | |
| 6(a) | dKU* | 2.6b | 2 |
| 6(b)(i) | dKU* | 2.6b | 1 |
| 6(b)(ii) | aKU* | 2.6b | 1 |
| 6(c) | aKU* | 2.6b | 1 |
| 7A | dKU | 2.1a | 4 |
| 7B | dKU* | 2.4a | 4 |
| 8(a) | PROC | 2.6a | 1 |
| 8(b) | CONC | 2.6a | 1 |
| 8(c)(i) | | | |
| 8(c)(ii) | | | |
| 8(c)(iii) | | | |
| 9(a) | dKU | 2.7b | 2 |
| 9(b)(i) | aKU* | 2.7b | 2 |
| 9(b)(il) | dKU* | 1.7b | 1 |
| 9(c) | dKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 10(a)(i) | PLAN* | 2.3a | 1 |
| 10(a)(ii) | PLAN* | 2.3a | 2 |
| 10(b) | PRES | 2.3a | 2 |
| 10(c) | CONC* | 2.3a | 1 |
| 11a(i) | PLAN | 3.1a | 1 |
| 11(a)(ii) | PLAN* | 3.1a | 1 |
| 11(b)(i) | PROC | 3.1a | 1 |
| 11(b)(ii) | PROC | 3.1a | 1 |
| 11(c) | aKU* | 3.1a | 2 |
| 12(a)(i) | aKU | 3.5a | 1 |
| 12(a)(ii) | aKU | 3.5a | 1 |
| 12(b) | dKU* | 3.5a | 1 |
| 12(c) | aKU | 3.5a | 1 |
| 13(a)(i) | SEL | 3.8c | 1 |
| 13(a)(ii) | SEL | 3.8c | 1 |
| 13(b) | PROC | 3.8c | 1 |
| 13(c) | aKU* | 3.8c | 1 |
| 13(d) | aKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 13(e) | dKU* | 3.7 | 1 |
| 14A(i) | dKU** | 3.3a | 4 |
| 14A(ii) | dKU** | 3.3b, c, d | 4 |
| 14B(i) | dKU** | 3.6a | 4 |
| 14B(ii) | dKU** | 3.6c | 4 |

| 2017 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 1(a) | dKU | 1.3d | 1 |
| 1(b) | dKU | 1.3d | 1 |
| 1(c)(i) | aKU** | 1.6b | 2 |
| 1(c)(ii) | aKU* | 1.6b | 1 |
| 2(ai) | PROC* | 1.2b | 1 |
| 2(aii) | aKU | 1.2b | 1 |
| 2(b) | CONC | 1.2b | 1 |
| 2(c) | dKU | 1.2b | 1 |
| 3(a) | SEL | 1.7b | 2 |
| 3(b) | aKU | 1.7b | 2 |
| 3(c) | aKU* | 1.7b | 1 |
| 4(a)(i) | aKU | 1.4b | 1 |
| 4(a)(ii) | aKU* | 1.4b | 1 |
| 4(a)(iii) | dKU | 1.4b | 1 |
| 4(b) | dKU* | 1.4b | 1 |
| 5(a)(i) | aKU | 1.8b | 1 |
| 5(a)(ii) | SEL | 1.8b | 1 |
| 5(a)(iii) | aKU* | 1.8b | 1 |
| 5b(i) | PROC | 1.8b | 1 |
| 5b(ii) | PRED | 1.8b | 1 |
| 5(c) | SEL | 1.8b | 1 |
| 6(a)(i) | aKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 6(a)(ii) | PROC | 2.6a | 1 |
| 6(a)(iii) | aKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 6a(iv) | | | |
| 6(b) | dKU | 2.6b | 2 |
| 6(c) | dKU* | 2.7b | 1 |
| 7(a) | aKU* | 2.4c | 2 |
| 7(b) | dKU* | 2.4e | 1 |
| 7(c) | dKU | 2.4b | 1 |
| 8(a)(i) | PLAN | 2.3b | 1 |
| 8(a)(ii) | SEL | 2.3b | 1 |
| 8(a)(iii) | aKU* | 2.3b | 1 |
| 8(b) | | | |
| 8(c) | dKU | 2.3b | 2 |
| 9(a)(i) | PLAN | 2.1c | 1 |
| 9(a)(ii) | PLAN* | 2.1c | 1 |
| 9(a)(iii) | EVAL | 2.1c | 1 |
| 9a(iv) | EVAL* | 2.1c | 1 |
| 9(b)(i) | PRES | 2.1c | 2 |
| 9(b)(ii) | PROC | 2.1c | 1 |
| 9(c) | CONC* | 2.1c | 1 |
| 10A | dKU* | 3.6d | 4 |
| 10B | dKU* | 3.8c | 4 |
| 11(a)(i) | dKU | 3.1b | 1 |
| 11(a)(ii) | dKU* | 3.1b | 1 |
| 11(a)(iii) | dKU* | 3.1b | 1 |
| 11b | dKU | 3.1b | 1 |
| 11c | dKU* | 3.1b | 1 |
| 12(a)(i) | aKU* | 3.3d | 2 |
| 12(a)(ii) | aKU | 3.3d | 1 |
| 12(b)(i) | PROC | 3.3d | 1 |
| 12(b)(ii) | CONC* | 3.3d | 1 |
| 13(a) | PROC | 3.2d | 1 |
| 13(b)(i) | | | |
| 13(b)(ii) | | | |
| 13(c) | | | |
| 13(d)(i) | PROC | 3.2d | 1 |
| 13(d)(ii) | CONC | 3.2d | 1 |
| 14(a)(i) | aKU | 3.6a | 1 |
| 14(a)(ii) | SEL | 3.6a | 1 |
| 14(b) | aKU | 3.6a | 1 |
| 14(c) | aKU* | 3.6b | 1 |
| 15A | dKU** | 2.2a | 7 |

| 2017 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 15B | dKU** | 2.5a, b | 7 |

| 2018 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 1(a)(i) | dKU | 2.4d | 1 |
| 1(a)(ii) | dKU | 2.4d | 1 |
| 1(a)(iii) | dKU | 2.4d | 1 |
| 1(b)(i) | dKU | 2.4d | 1 |
| 1(b)(ii) | dKU* | 2.4d | 1 |
| 1(c) | dKU | 2.4e | 1 |
| 2(a) | PROC* | 2.4b | 1 |
| 2(b) | aKU | 2.4b | 1 |
| 2(c) | aKU** | 2.4b | 2 |
| 2(d) | dKU* | 2.4b | 1 |
| 3(a)(i) | dKU | 2.6b | 1 |
| 3(a)(ii) | aKU | 2.6b | 1 |
| 3(b)(i) | aKU | 3.5b | 1 |
| 3(b)(ii) | aKU | 3.5b | 1 |
| 3(c)(i) | PLAN | 2.6b | 1 |
| 3(c)(ii) | CONC* | 2.6b | 1 |
| 4(a) | aKU | 2.5b | 2 |
| 4(b) | aKU* | 2.5b | 1 |
| 4(c) | dKU | 2.5a | 1 |
| 5(ai) | 1aKU, 1SEL | 2.7b | 2 |
| 5(aii) | dKU | 2.7b | 1 |
| 5(aiii) | PRED | 2.7b | 2 |
| 5(b) | dKU* | 2.7b | 1 |
| 6(a)(i) | SEL* | 3.8c | 2 |
| 6(a)(ii) | PROC | 3.8c | 1 |
| 6(a)(iii) | PROC | 3.8c | 1 |
| 6b(i) | IMPR | 3.8c | 1 |
| 6b(ii)1 | aKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 6b(ii)2 | aKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 6(c) | dKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 7(a)(i) | SEL | 3.1b | 1 |
| 7(a)(ii) | aKU* | 3.1b | 1 |
| 7(a)(iii) | dKU | 3.1b | 1 |
| 7(b) | aKU* | 3.1b | 2 |
| 8(a)(i) | SEL | 3.1a | 1 |
| 8(a)(ii) | PROC* | 3.1a | 1 |
| 8(b)(i) | dKU | 3.1a | 1 |
| 8(b)(ii) | aKU* | 3.1a | 1 |
| 9(a) | dKU* | 3.2d | 1 |
| 9(b) | aKU* | 3.2d | 1 |
| 9(c)(i) | | | |
| 9(c)(ii) | aKU | 3.2d | 1 |
| 9(d) | aKU | 3.2c | 1 |
| 10(a)(i) | PLAN | 1.3c | 2 |
| 10(a)(ii) | aKU | 1.3c | 1 |
| 10(b)(i) | PRES | 1.3c | 2 |
| 10(b)(ii) | SEL | 1.3c | 1 |
| 10(b)(iii) | PROC | 1.3c | 1 |
| 10(b)(iv) | CONC | 1.3c | 1 |
| 11A | dKU* | 3.7 | 4 |
| 11B | dKU* | 3.5a | 4 |
| 12(a)(i) | dKU | 1.6b | 1 |
| 12(a)(ii) | aKU** | 1.6b | 2 |
| 12(b)(i) | aKU* | 1.6b | 1 |
| 12(b)(ii) | | | |
| 13(a)(i) | | | |
| 13(a)(ii) | | | |
| 13(b) | | | |
| 13(c) | | | |
| 13(d) | | | |
| 14A(i) | dKU* | 1.1b | 4 |
| 14A(ii) | dKU | 1.2b | 5 |
| 14B(i) | dKU* | 1.3a | 6 |
| 14B(ii) | dKU | 1.3b | 3 |

| 2019 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 1(a) | dKU | 1.2a | 1 |
| 1(b) | aKU* | 1.2a | 1 |
| 1(c)(i) | aKU* | 1.2a | 1 |
| 1(c)(ii) | dKU | 1.2a | 1 |
| 1(d) | dKU | 1.1b | 2 |
| 2(a) | PROC | 1.6a | 1 |
| 2(b) | dKU | 1.3a | 1 |
| 2(c) | aKU** | 1.3c | 2 |
| 2(d) | dKU | 1.3a | 1 |
| 3A | dKU* | 2.2b | 4 |
| 3B | dKU* | 2.1c | 4 |
| 4(a)(i) | dKU | 1.3e | 1 |
| 4(a)(ii) | aKU | 1.3b | 1 |
| 4(b)(i) | dKU* | 1.6c | 1 |
| 4(b)(ii) | dKU** | 1.6c | 2 |
| 5(a) | 1dKU, 1aKU* | 1.7c | 2 |
| 5(b)(i) | PROC | 1.7c | 1 |
| 5(b)(ii) | aKU* | 1.7c | 1 |
| 5(c) | dKU | 1.8b | 1 |
| 6(a) | PLAN | 1.8c | 1 |
| 6(b) | CONC | 1.8c | 2 |
| 6(c) | PLAN | 1.8c | 1 |
| 6(d) | dKU | 1.8c | 1 |
| 7(a)(i) | SEL | 1.5 | 1 |
| 7(a)(ii) | PROC | 1.5 | 1 |
| 7(a)(iii) | PRED | 1.5 | 1 |
| 7(b) | PROC | 1.5 | 1 |
| 7(c) | dKU* | 1.5 | 1 |
| 7(d) | dKU* | 1.3d | 1 |
| 8(a) | SEL | 2.6a | 2 |
| 8(b)(i) | aKU | 2.6a | 1 |
| 8(b)(ii) | aKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 8(c) | dKU | 2.1c | 1 |
| 9(a) | dKU | 2.2a | 1 |
| 9(b)(i) | dKU* | 2.2a | 1 |
| 9(b)(ii) | dKU | 2.2a | 1 |
| 9(b)(iii) | dKU* | 2.2a | 2 |
| 9(c)(i) | dKU | 2.2c | 1 |
| 9(c)(ii) | aKU* | 2.2c | 1 |
| 10(a) | aKU* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 10(b) | aKU | 2.6a | 1 |
| 10(c)(i) | PRED | 2.6a | 1 |
| 10(c)(ii) | aKU | 2.6a | 1 |
| 10(c)(iii) | PLAN | 2.6a | 1 |
| 10(c)(iv) | aKU* | 2.6a | 2 |
| 11(a) | dKU | 2.5a | 1 |
| 11(b) | dKU | 2.5a | 1 |
| 11(c) | PROC | 2.5a | 1 |
| 11(d) | IMPR* | 2.5a | 1 |
| 11(e) | aKU | 2.5a | 1 |
| 11(f) | dKU | 2.5b | 1 |
| 12(a)(i) | PLAN | 2.6a | 1 |
| 12(a)(ii) | PLAN* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 12(b) | PRES | 2.6a | 3 |
| 12(c) | CONC* | 2.6a | 1 |
| 12(d) | IMPR* | 2.6a | 2 |
| 13(a) | aKU | 3.3c | 1 |
| 13(b)(i) | aKU | 3.3d | 1 |
| 13(b)(ii) | dKU | 3.3d | 1 |
| 13(c)(i) | aKU* | 3.8c | 2 |
| 13(c)(ii) | aKU | 3.8c | 1 |
| 14(a)(i) | aKU | 3.5a | 1 |
| 14(a)(ii) | aKU | 3.5a | 1 |
| 14(b)(i) | PROC | 3.5a | 1 |
| 14(b)(ii) | CONC | 3.5a | 1 |

| 2019 SQA Higher Biology Section 2 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Question | KU/Skill | Key Area | Max Mark |
| 14(c) | aKU | 3.5a | 2 |
| 15(a)(i) | PROC | 3.6d | 1 |
| 15(a)(ii) | aKU | 3.6d | 1 |
| 15(b) | 1dKU, 1aKU | 3.6b | 2 |
| 15(c) | aKU | 3.6d | 1 |
| 15(d) | dKU | 3.6d | 2 |
| 16A(i) | dKU* | 3.1b | 3 |
| 16A(ii) | dKU* | 3.1b | 4 |
| 16B(i) | dKU* | 3.8a | 2 |
| 16B(ii) | dKU* | 3.8b | 5 |