

BIOLOGY

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Study Score = 50



The thing I liked best about Biology was... that the course managed to explore many different areas of biology, while also ensuring that we went into enough depth to keep it interesting. Topics such as the immune system and genetics allowed me to get a feel for areas that interest me as part of my future career. At the same time, however, there are sections of the course that I found a huge chore to learn (looking at you plant hormones!).

The best advice I can give students about Biology is... remember that there are links everywhere, although some are less obvious than others. I always tried to find these conceptual connections as they helped me understand the content in a way that prevented me from doing mindless memorising (which I absolutely hate!). Don't expect your teacher to fill in these links for you: you'll have to work on this yourself. It's a great way to reinforce your understanding!

The best advice I got from my Biology teacher was... assume the assessor knows nothing. When you answer a question, make sure you write down all the thinking that went into your response. If you leave something out, it may have been the line they were looking for to give you the mark!

One month before the final Biology exam, I... was churning through practice exams. The Term 3 holidays are a time to work consistently. During the weekdays, I did three practice exams a day, while over the weekends I revised content. The sooner you start getting a feel for the VCAA question style, the sooner you start to figure out how a year's worth of content you've learnt transfers to the exam. Of course, you should start Unit 3 practice exams during Term 2!

One week before the final Biology exam, I... did the final VCAA exams that I'd been saving (2014 and 2015), and went into school to talk to my teacher about a few lingering questions. Over the final few days, I went through all the content and made a succinct summary of the things that I had repeatedly got wrong or that never stuck in my memory. The day before the exam, I did no biology!

On Biology exam day, I prepared myself by... feeling confident. By that point, I knew that there was nothing more I could do to prepare for the exam (except for read over my summary of confusing concepts). If you're going into an exam feeling anything but ready, you haven't used the last year wisely!

After the Biology exam, I.... interrupted my teacher's Year 8 class and talked about the exam (oops!). I was very lucky to have a huge gap between Biology and my next exam, so I took the night off.

The best exam advice I received was... nothing that I listened to. My personal strategy has never let me down. During reading time, I read as far through the paper from the start as possible (especially the multi-choice section). Then, as soon as writing time starts, I'm able to race through the multi-choice section because I've already answered it all in my head during reading time! This gives me plenty of time to focus on my written responses.

I did not work a part-time job during Year 12 because... I had enough work as it was! VCE is a full-time job, and if you have a leadership role (like I did) your time is even more precious! Also, if you do well during Year 12, you already have a high-paying part-time job lined up: tutoring!

“ I made a summary of all the things I had repeatedly got wrong... ”