

IB3 Biology Guideline Review

Welcome back to another challenging year of IB Biology. This year's emphasis will be on preparing for the IB exam. We will complete the IA component in October. We will cover the Group 4 Project, topics of ecology, classification, human anatomy and physiology the first 3 quarters. We will begin our curriculum review and exam preparation for May's exam in March. The writing focus for this year will be on exam essays.

Please remind yourself of the following important policies:

Attendance: Attendance is critical for academic success in this class. If you have an excused absence(s) please arrange for missed notes and assignments. Many students contact me via email (kelly.cameron@vsd.org) when they are absent. I found this to be a very good way of keeping up. You will find yourself on my dark side if you tend to continually miss critical days (lab due dates and/or tests)! If this happens there will be no grade curve.

Textbook: Keep at home

Assignments: All assignments have a due date. Unless otherwise noted they will only be accepted at the beginning of class. Assignments, which are turned in, at the end of class, or the next day will receive half credit. All others will receive no credit. Remember turning in partially completed work is better than no work at all. **Let me know right away if an assigned due date conflicts with other due dates, I am usually flexible.**

You will complete your IA in October. It will then be assigned an internal assessment grade and turned in to IB. 8-10 students will be randomly selected to have their work sent in for IB verification. You will also complete a science resume at the end of 1st semester.

Quizzes: You will be given two types of quizzes this year; practice and graded. Practice quizzes (to review IB material) will not be graded. They are a means of helping you identify your strengths and weaknesses. Graded quizzes will always be announced. They will often be multiple choice or matching. You **will not** be able to drop any quiz scores this year. If you know that you will be absent on a quiz date please arrange to take it before you leave.

Exams: Exams can not be retaken. Prepare yourself for the exam; avoid cram sessions the night before. As previously mentioned the emphasis will be on essays, many of which will be answered on one or more pages.

Grading: Students enrolled in IB courses will earn the full range of grades on all tests, essays, projects, etc. throughout the term. This will give each student a realistic picture of their competencies compared with students of like skills – a “real-world” picture of the quality of their performance. I acknowledge the difficulty of the IB course; therefore, I will make an effort to adjust grades by various means, such as curving tests and formal labs and offering extra credit.

You will be graded on a point system. Point totals will be converted to the following percentages to determine a letter grade:

A 92-100% A- 90-91% B+ 88-89% B 82-87% B- 80-81% C+ 78-79% C 72-77% C- 70-71% D 60-69%

Approximately 50% of your score is based on tests/quizzes and 50% on labs and homework.

Skyward grade book – All assignments and tests are continually entered in the grade book. Student feedback is a priority. If there are any questions or if I make a mistake in entering a grade please notify me immediately.

Extra Credit: You may continue to take advantage of the opportunity to increase your overall percentage by **3%** each semester. In order to qualify for extra credit, the student must have all assignment turned in and have no more than 2 unexcused tardies for the semester. All extra credit must be turned in no later than the 8th week of the quarter.

Honor: Be proud of who you are and what you can do. Prepare yourself to the best of your ability. Cheating & plagiarizing on any test, quiz, lab, assignment, etc merits a failing grade for that test, quiz or assignment. Please cite all resources with MLA guidelines and use a works cited page. Laboratory methods for planning labs are to be your design and not to be taken from Internet sites verbatim. Data analysis should not be done by one lab partner and Xeroxed off for other partners to use. Data should always be your own and not fabricated.

Respect: Be respectful to yourself, others and your teacher. Listen with open minds; speak with kind words and no inappropriate language. Abusive language or put-downs will be met with push-ups. Be responsible for your actions. Clean up your lab materials and work area. Please do not write on your desk, or eat food in the classroom.

Safety Contract

I understand and agree to the following:

1. Laboratory safety is extremely important, both for me, and for my classmates. Failure to follow the lab rules could result in serious injury to me or someone else.
2. By not following the lab rules, I am willfully and deliberately putting myself and those around me in danger.
3. If I choose to break a lab rule, I may be immediately removed from the lab area of the classroom, and forfeit the rest of the experiment. Furthermore, I ***will receive a zero grade for the remainder of the lab***, including post-lab write-up.
4. I will abide by the following rules:
 - a. Safety goggles must be worn when instructed to do so.
 - b. Loose clothing and open-toed shoes should not be worn during lab. Long hair should be tied back with a ribbon or hair elastic.
 - c. The unauthorized mixing of any chemicals is strictly forbidden. Only those reagents which have been approved by the teacher or within the laboratory procedure should be combined.
 - d. All specimens to be cut with a scalpel will be done on the desk and not in the hand. Extra care will be used when using a scalpel.
 - e. No unapproved experiments will be permitted at any time.
 - f. Students are not allowed in the prep room without express consent of the teacher.
 - g. Rough-housing or other goofing-type behaviors will not be tolerated. Respect will be shown to animals/organs to be dissected. The laboratory is a place where serious work should occur, and serious consequences for not acting appropriately will be enacted by the teacher.
 - h. Report any injury, spill or broken equipment immediately to the teacher. Place broken glass and other lab materials in the directed containers.
 - i. No eating or drinking during labs.
 - j. Thoroughly clean lab area, put away materials as requested and wash hands at the end of class.

Communication

Parents and students if at any time you have questions or need to contact me please email me at Kelly.cameron@vansd.org I will respond to your email within 24 hours.

Parents: Thank you for taking the time to read the IB Biology guidelines and syllabus. I look forward to the opportunity to teach your son or daughter this year and hope to see you at open house and or parent teacher conferences.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelly Cameron