



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION

*Release of Spring 2021
MCAS Test Information*

from the

*High School Biology
Paper-Based Test*

June 2021
Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education



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High School Biology Test

The spring 2021 high school Biology test was a legacy assessment that was based on overlapping learning standards in the October 2006 and April 2016 versions of the *Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework*. The 2006 and 2016 versions of the framework are available on the Department website at www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/.

Biology test results are reported under the following five legacy MCAS reporting categories:

- Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- Genetics
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Ecology
- Evolution and Biodiversity

The table on the next page indicates each item's reporting category and the 2006 and 2016 framework learning standards each item assesses. In order to support future test development, items from the spring 2021 Biology test are not included in this publication. The omission of these items will have no impact on the reporting of results.

Test Sessions

The high school Biology test included two separate test sessions. Each session included multiple-choice and open-response questions.

Reference Materials and Tools

The high school Biology test was designed to be taken without the aid of a calculator. Students were allowed to have calculators with them during testing, but calculators were not needed to answer questions.

During both Biology test sessions, the use of bilingual word-to-word dictionaries was allowed for current and former English learner students only. No other reference tools or materials were allowed.

High School Biology
Spring 2021 Unreleased Operational Items

Item No.	Legacy Reporting Category	2006 Standard	2016 Standard
1	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.3	HS.LS.2.4
2	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.2	HS.LS.1.2
3	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.4	HS.LS.2.5
4	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.3	HS.LS.4.5
5	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.3	HS.LS.1.2
6	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.1	HS.LS.4.1
7	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.6	HS.LS.3.3
8	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.3	HS.LS.2.1
9	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.2	HS.LS.2.1
10	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.2	HS.LS.2.1
11	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.1	HS.LS.2.1
12	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.3	HS.LS.2.1
13	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.CL1.3	HS.LS.1.1
14	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.1	HS.LS.1.2
15	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.7	HS.LS.3.1
16	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.1	HS.LS.4.1
17	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.2	HS.LS.2.6
18	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.6	HS.LS.3.3
19	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.CL1.1	HS.LS.1.6
20	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.3	HS.LS.3.2
21	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.CL1.2	HS.LS.1.6
22	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.6	HS.LS.3.1
23	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.3	HS.LS.4.5
24	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.2	HS.LS.4.5
25	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.2	HS.LS.1.1
26	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.7	HS.LS.3.1
27	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.3	HS.LS.4.2
28	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.2	HS.LS.4.5
29	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.4	HS.LS.2.5
30	<i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i>	STE.Bio.Evo5.1	HS.LS.4.1
31	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.5	HS.LS.1.7
32	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.8	HS.LS.1.3
33	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.8	HS.LS.4.4
34	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.3	HS.LS.3.2

Item No.	Legacy Reporting Category	2006 Standard	2016 Standard
35	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.3	HS.LS.3.2
36	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.CL1.1	HS.LS.1.6
37	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.4	HS.LS.1.2
38	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.1	HS.LS.2.1
39	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.4	HS.LS.1.7
40	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.1	HS.LS.1.6
41	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	STE.Bio.AP4.1	HS.LS.1.2
42	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.6	HS.LS.1.4
43	<i>Ecology</i>	STE.Bio.Eco6.3	HS.LS.2.1
44	<i>Genetics</i>	STE.Bio.Gen3.6	HS.LS.3.3
45	<i>Biochemistry and Cell Biology</i>	STE.Bio.Cell2.1	HS.LS.1.3