

# BIOLOGY

## Guide to the New TASC Course



The new *Biology* level 3 course is based on senior secondary *Australian Curriculum: Biology*. All elements of *Australian Curriculum: Biology Unit 2* and a large proportion of *Australian Curriculum: Biology Units 3 and 4* are contained in this course.

### WHAT IS SIMILAR?

Learners will continue to:

- study six underlying biology concepts and related processes in four levels of organisation
- relate science understandings to science as a human endeavour, with particular reference to the application and impact of biological science in society
- develop science inquiry skills, planning and organisational skills and processing and communication skills across all sections of study
- spend a minimum of 45 hours on practical activities.

### WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

Course content has changed to incorporate a larger proportion of *Australian Curriculum: Biology Unit 4* with the addition of content on *infectious diseases*, and less of *Australian Curriculum: Biology Unit 1* with the removal of content about *describing biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics*.

Details of *Science Understanding* have changed as follows:

- elaborations have been added under the headings of *Experimental design (Criterion 2)* and *Application and impact of biological science in society (Criterion 4)*
- the last of six underlying concepts and related processes has been changed from *evolutionary change to managing challenges*
- the fourth level of biological organisation has been changed from *interactions of organisms with their environments to continuity of organisms and survival of changes*
- **The chemical basis of life (Criterion 5)**
  - elaborations on content have been added
- **Cells (Criterion 6)**
  - elaborations on content have been added

- **Organisms (Criterion 7)**
  - elaborations on content have been added
  - *adaptations* has been moved into this section and placed under the new underlying concept of *managing challenges*
  - *DNA: the code of life* has been moved out of this section
- **Continuity of organisms and survival of changes (Criterion 8)**
  - *DNA: the code of life* has been moved into this section with elaborations on its content
  - *natural selection* has been moved into *DNA: the code of life*
  - *adaptations* has been moved out of this section
  - new information has been included on *organisms that cause disease and lines of defence inside the body*.

### HOW DOES THE COURSE CATER FOR ALL STUDENTS?

- The study of *Life Sciences* level 2 is a useful pathway to *Biology*.
- It is recommended that learners study *Biology* in Year 12.

### WHAT SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

- A course supplement designed to support teachers new to or returning to teaching this course.
- Professional Learning to support course implementation.