

Assessment in IGCSE Biology 0610

Session 3: Handout 3.6

Identifying student errors

Look at the Examiner Report that you have been given.

Find as many cases of the following as you can and make a note of them.

- Cases where candidates misread the question
- Incorrect reference or lack of reference to the stem of a question
- Incorrect extraction of information from a table
- Advice for future candidates
- Careless use of words (which may result in candidates being penalised)
- Poor quality diagrams
- Misconceptions or other problems which arise year after year

Now answer the following questions:

(1) Do all members in your department have copies or have access to the Examiner Report? (Copies can be downloaded from the Teacher Support website.)

(2) Can any of the misconceptions mentioned in the Report arise from the way you teach the topics?

(3) Do you use the Examiner Reports to guide you in informing students of common mistakes / areas where misconceptions occur?

If not, how and when could you use this information to help students?

(4) Is it possible to use information in the Examiner Reports to improve student performance in earlier years than the examination year?

(5) How do you ensure that your students are able to extract information from the stem of a question?

(6) To what extent could you incorporate the information from the Examiner Reports into your scheme of work?