

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 1

Introduction

Outline the coursework requirements for Edexcel

Pond Investigation (am)

- Compare a woodland and meadow pond by measuring biotic and abiotic factors
- List all independent, and dependent variables and controls

Woodland Investigation (pm)

- A brief introduction to woodlands and ways of investigating them
- Randomly sample using gridded quadrats in one deciduous woodland and measure abiotic and biotic factors, visit a second woodland to see the differences
- Start a belt transect from grassland into woodland measuring abiotic and biotic factors and using a point frame
- List all independent and dependent variables and controls
- Draw brief conclusions and discuss how it could be improved

RECOMMENDED DAY LENGTH

9.30- 16.00

SAFETY All sites and activities are risk assessed. Recommended 1 adult per group

CLOTHING Appropriate outdoor clothing. Indoor and outdoor footwear.

VISITING TEACHER ROLE

Teachers to support FSC staff by circulating the students, keeping them on task. Teachers are responsible for behaviour.

RESOURCES All resources are provided, including assessment criteria.

ICT There is the option of using a digital camera to record techniques.

SPECIFICATION LINKS

Edexcel Unit 6a: Practical biology and investigative skills

- Students will be guided to complete projects that meet criteria for individual investigations.
- Other elements of the specification can be highlighted or reinforced to demonstrate the synoptic nature of ecological projects
- Different sampling techniques will be covered; random, systematic and stratified

ASSESSMENT

Progress assessed by open ended questioning, peer discussions, presentations and use of knowledge and skills in different situations.

PRIOR LEARNING

Simple definitions and terms, prior knowledge from specifications

FUTURE LEARNING

See day two

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 2

Tour of the site (am)

- Walk around the site and point out possible projects and different sites

Statistics talk

- Highlight the main statistic tests that will be useful
- Explain why each statistic test is used

Mini Projects

- Students are given an hour to design a mini project around the centre.
- A planning sheet must be completed. The sheet includes sampling technique, variables, controls and statistics.
- Students produce a short presentation about any difficulties in planning.

Planning of projects (pm)

- Students will plan their project using the same planning sheet as the morning.
- Trial studies and visits to sites may be undertaken.
- Plans must be completed by the end of the afternoon.

Day 3

Undertaking Projects

- Students undertake their individual projects
- Help is available for analysis of the students own numerical data.

RECOMMENDED DAY LENGTH

9.30- 4.00

SAFETY All sites and activities are risk assessed. Recommended 1 adult per group

CLOTHING Appropriate outdoor clothing. Indoor and outdoor footwear.

VISITING TEACHER

ROLE Teachers to support FSC staff by circulating the students, keeping them on task. Teachers are responsible for behaviour.

RESOURCES All resources are provided

ICT There is the option of using a digital camera to record techniques.



SPECIFICATION LINKS

Edexcel Unit 6a: Practical biology and investigative skills

- Trial study is conducted in advance of the main data collection phase.
- Data can be collected for projects to be submitted as coursework
- Other elements of the specification can be highlighted or reinforced to demonstrate the synoptic nature of ecological projects
- Different sampling techniques will be covered; random, systematic and stratified

PRIOR LEARNING Simple definitions and terms, prior knowledge from specifications

FUTURE LEARNING

Individual project write up