

# Frequently Asked Questions

Here are the FAQs from the professional learning event on the 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.

## General Comments

**Can we get a clarification about entry dates and deadlines to upload onto IAMIS?**

Here are the key dates:

Entry deadline: 21 February 2023      Final amendments: 18 March 2023

Late fees payable from: 19 March 2023    Very late fees payable from: 19 April 2023

Deadline for tasks to be uploaded onto IAMIS: 15 May 2023

**What will the grade boundaries be for 2023?**

Grade boundaries can't be set until after an exam series is complete, therefore we have no information yet about the summer 2023 series.

**Will there be a textbook or revision guide?**

No publishers have expressed an interest in producing a text book. However, the knowledge organisers serve as excellent revision tools.

**Are there any plans to produce more knowledge organisers?**

Currently, the knowledge organisers cover units 2, 3, 4 and 5, and some of unit 1. We chose to use our funding to produce knowledge organisers where there was less information available as unit 1 content is covered by most generic biology textbooks. If more resource funding becomes available, we will look to fill the gaps in the set for unit 1.

## Unit 2

Is the current assessment available on the secure website?

Yes, it is available in the non-exam assessment materials section.

## Unit 3

What number of questions makes the data sufficient?

For upper band we recommend at least 15 responses. There isn't a set number of questions that should be asked, however too many questions will make the data overwhelming for the candidates. The questions should be focussed according to their particular investigation.

Are graphs part of task 3?

Yes task 3 are when graphs should be covered by candidates, however some candidates do choose to put graphs in other parts of their write up as well. Candidates should use the learner summary sheet to ensure they address the ACs required by each task.

Do all sampling methods need to be covered in detail within the assessment?

Candidates only need to cover the method that they are going to use in detail.

Previously, we have submitted work on google sheets, with formulae printed out and workings shown. This has been accepted as evidence previously – will it still be accepted in the future?

Provided the workings are shown, this can be used as evidence

Do graphs need to be hand-drawn?

No, however care needs to be taken when using ICT, as sometimes scales and labelling are not as expected.

Can candidates still achieve a middle band if their final Chi-squared calculation is incorrect?

Yes, we also look for means and standard deviation for band 2.

How much evidence of calculation is needed for AC4.1?

Candidates need to carry out a statistical test correctly to access band 3. This can be done using an online program or statistical package. However, we recommend that candidates show their calculations at least once to ensure that they access AC4.4.

## Unit 4

Do all the ACs attached to this task need to be covered in every leaflet?

Yes, they do, except for AC2.3 which can only be covered on the anti-microbial unit.

Is internet access allowed?

Yes, it is, however please discourage candidates from wasting their time including irrelevant details.

Does an antibiotic need to target a particular organ/system?

Antibiotic effects are complex and systemic. There should be a recognition of this within the leaflet.

With regards to AC2.2 candidates can state/ describe how the antimicrobial drug is used against a particular condition that affects one (or more) of the body systems from the specification.

Are there are list of drugs?

Examples of the groups of drugs that could be studied are listed in the specification, however this is not exhaustive. We do not give the trade names of specific drugs.

Can the whole cohort submit the same four drugs?

Yes, however lots of centres choose to allow the candidates some freedom in picking their own drugs (within the limits of the specification).

If their coverage of one AC (e.g., AC2.2) is poor for one of their leaflets, can this be compensated on the other leaflets?

A best-fit mark should be awarded. E.g., if all other leaflets are considered top band, but one leaflet bottom band, then 4 or 5 marks could be awarded, but not 6.