

Biology Challenge 2010

Feedback from schools

- The first year we have run the competition and found it very enjoyable for the students and easy to use for the teachers. We will definitely be entering again next year.
- Thank you for organising the Challenge. I think it is a wonderful way of broadening the students' experience and stimulating curiosity about the natural world. Long may it continue!
- Thank you so much for yet another valuable and excellently run Biology Challenge. As a school that took the pen and paper version last year and the internet version this year I would like to say to all schools that favour the pen and paper "go on, take the leap!" It went so very smoothly and pupils felt it far more official to have their answers assessed on the system. There will always be a few minor technical difficulties especially dealing with the huge numbers of pupils in such a short space of time. My department were so impressed we have decided to add it to the scheme of work to allow every pupil to have a go at the online version, we would never dream of marking all of the papers ourselves! Keep it up! You have done a brilliant job!
- Thank you for organising another successful Biology Challenge. This is our second year doing it and the pupils enjoy it immensely.
- Thanks for all your hard work in giving us such an efficiently run Biology Challenge. The online instructions were clear and precise and we didn't have any problems at our end. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.
- Thank you very much for doing this Challenge. It is simply wonderful, and the instructions are very clear and well organised. The students were very positive about it. I have no criticisms whatsoever!
- Many thanks for all your hard work. The quality of the whole package was excellent. My students really enjoyed the experience and it certainly started some of them thinking. You deserve a medal.
- I just wanted to thank you for organising this year's Biology Challenge. It ran without a single problem, and the girls thoroughly enjoyed it.
- Thank you for all your efforts again this year. The Challenge was great, all our Year 9s and Year 10s did it and we have issued in-house certificates: Best in Year, Best in School and Commended.
- I just wanted to say a huge thank you for this year's Biology Challenge. I thought the questions were fair and certainly challenged our Year 10s and G & T Year 9. There was a good breadth of questions covering aspects studied at IGCSE and also beyond that of the curriculum. I decided this year to allow all students in Years 9 and 10 to sit both papers. The feedback from the students has been very positive and they can't wait to find out their scores! Some of the questions have also prompted some students to go away and find out more about something they did not know about. This is invaluable and is stimulating the students to find things out for themselves.
- I just wanted to thank you for all the hard work (- and it must have been a lot of hard work) with the Biology Challenge this year. We managed to put our Year 10 students through paper 1 and then selected the best for paper 2 during the second week. We've put together our own certificates (using the Biology Challenge image - thank you) with a Distinction, Merit and pass grading. The timing of the competition was very usefully - Science and Engineering week - thank you.
- Our pupils have really enjoyed it.

- This is the first time that my school has been involved in the challenge. We entered our top two classes in Years 9 and 10 (the classes whom are taking the three separate sciences for GCSE) Feedback has been very positive from the students - we will certainly take part again.
- Just a word to say how good the test was and how enjoyable my pupils found it.
- Our students loved the whole experience – we will be regular contestants for this competition. Liked the papers this year particularly – good on you! My school Science Department have never been up for competitions before (not till I arrived in fact) but when they have seen how excited the students are about doing it – and how proud they were to all get awards last year, they have come round to my way of thinking.
- This was the first time we have entered Biology Challenge and we enjoyed the experience. The papers were interesting and challenging and thank you for the amount of time you must have put in.
- It was ever so positive for us, pupils doing all the various music and drama who couldn't do round 2 were gutted. The online approach came across as 'more polished' and all worked brilliantly.
- Thanks very much for organising it; although our entry wasn't very high, the students were very positive!
- Firstly, many thanks for the effort that you and your team have been putting into this competition. There has been a genuine interest in this from the pupils.
- I think they have really relished the challenge.
- In the end, we had three classes who were able to finish both papers - they had a great time answering the questions and we will definitely be interested in rising to the 'Challenge' again next year!! Some of our Year 10 students had done the challenge on paper last year and definitely preferred this year's online version.
- Thanks very much for all the organisation that has obviously gone into this competition.
- The boys have enjoyed your quiz very much indeed. I thought the competition went really well. The students enjoyed it and I have got a big pat on the back for doing something interesting with GTA science students!
- Many thanks for the competition - it is quite a teacher and pupil friendly system and I will endeavour to engage more students with it next year. Keep up the good work!