Supporting Learning in Biology AS A2

This exercise was developed with reference to the CCEA GCE Specification in Biology – Version 2-28 April 2017. In doing so, it addresses support for students learning objectives relevant to the following benchmarks:

Unit AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity

2.2 The adaptation of organisms

2.2.1 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how organisms adapt to their environment,

2.2.2 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how ecological factors influence the distribution of organisms

2.2.3 carry out practical work to include the qualitative and quantitative techniques used to investigate the distribution and relative abundance of plants and animals in a habitat:

2.3 Biodiversity

2.3.2 demonstrate knowledge and understanding that biodiversity involves variation among living organisms at all levels of biological organisation,

2.3.3 measure species diversity and know that genetic diversity can be measured:

2.3.4 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principle of taxonomy, including:

2.3.6 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the other taxa within which species can be grouped, including:

2.3.14 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the

features of animalia, including that animals are

heterotrophs and capable of locomotion;

2.4 Human impact on biodiversity

2.4.1 demonstrate knowledge and understanding that agricultural practices can have an impact on biodiversity, including:

2.4.4 demonstrate an awareness that there is a range of initiatives to conserve habitats and Promote biodiversity, including:

3.3 Unit AS 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology

(a) Assessed practical tasks - sampling techniques (in the field), including measuring abiotic or biotic factors (up to two investigations may be counted).

4.4 Ecosystems (b) Communities

4.4.7 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concept of an ecological community as a biotic component of an ecosystem and involving interactions between autotrophic and heterotrophic populations;

This course was designed by Dr. Chris McGonigle who teaches in the School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, at Ulster University based on the Coleriane Campus. Chris is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He is also a STEM Ambassador and a member of the British Ecological Society Teaching and Learning Group.