

Preface

This course is dedicated to all teachers and students in Hong Kong secondary schools.

It is specially written to promote the use of interactive approaches in teaching biology, as well as learning the subject in an active, stimulating and interesting way. Teachers will find the course useful in enhancing the effectiveness of their teaching; students will find it helpful in studying biology.

The course is written for the latest CDC Biology Syllabus. It consists of three textbooks, three workbooks (plus teacher's edition), three teacher's guides, overhead transparencies and wallcharts.

In the revised edition, those features in the first edition which teachers and students found useful have been kept. In addition, a number of new sections have been added such as **Do you remember?**, **Challenge**, **Integrated Learning** and **Puzzle**. Comments and feedback from teachers and students on the first edition have also been incorporated. Further improvements have been made, including simplifying the contents better to suit the needs of teaching, updating the information and enhancing the format for more attractive presentation.

The following are special features of the revised edition of the book.

Emphasis on mastering concepts

- Study targets in question format as **Do you know?** are introduced at the beginning of each chapter to focus attention.
- Concepts are highlighted and clearly explained in the text.
- **Key learning** is provided at the end of each part to help consolidate key concepts.
- **Check your concepts** and **Wrong concepts** are included at the end of each chapter to help students evaluate and clarify concepts.
- **Exercises** at the end of each chapter provide further chances for students to apply concepts and reinforce learning. Teachers could use these as written homework.

Encourage development of problem-solving skills

- The numerous graphs and tables are useful for class discussion.
- **Question**, **Challenge** and **Do you remember?** require different levels of abilities in answering. Many of them are specially designed to develop higher level thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

Emphasis on developing interest in biology

- **Additional information** sections present interesting daily examples with biological facts to arouse interest.
- **Activity** sections are suggested to provide relevant biological work for students to do either in school or at home to promote active learning.
- In the **Integrated learning** sections which aim to help students integrate concepts and facts from different areas in the syllabus, daily life situations have been incorporated where appropriate.
- **Puzzle** sections are included after each section to enhance learning interest through games.

Attractive layout and easy to study

- Colourful photographs, annotated diagrams, cartoons, posters are liberally used to enhance interest in using the textbooks.
- Materials outside the scope of the syllabus have been clearly distinguished to avoid over-learning.
- The content is kept concise and simple English is used.

We should be grateful for any feedback and comments from teachers and students using these books so as to make improvements in future editions.

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