The Preliminary Biology module consists of core content which will be covered in 120 indicative hours.

Practical experiences are an essential component of both the Preliminary and HSC Biology Courses. Students will complete 80 indicative hours of practical/field work during both the Preliminary and HSC courses with no less than 35 indicative hours of practical experiences in the HSC course.

Practical experiences will emphasise hands on activities. These activities will include:

Laboratory experiments

Fieldwork

Research, using a wide range of sources, including print materials, the Internet and digital technologies

Computer simulations for modelling or manipulating data

Analyse and reorganise secondary data

Extract and reorganise information in the form of flow charts, tables, graphs, diagrams, prose and keys

Use animation, video and film resources to capture/obtain information not available in other forms.
The Preliminary course incorporates the study of the **core topics**:

- Patterns in nature
- Life on earth
- Evolution of Australia Biota
- A Local ecosystem

**ASSESSMENT**

The assessment for the Biology Preliminary course in 2010 will be comprised of:

A **half yearly exam** covering the topics Patterns in nature. The exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions and require short and long written responses. Students will be given 80 minutes to complete the exam. Sample practice questions may be accessed on the NSW board of studies website.

A **practical assessment task** will also be undertaken by students. This task will assess the student’s ability to independently use practical and problem solving skills acquired during the course.

An **oral task** will be assessed in Term 2

A **fieldwork** report in Term 3.

A **Yearly exam** exam covering all core topics will take place at the end of Term 3. This exam will be comprised of 15 multiple choice questions and require short and long written responses. The exam will be marked out of a total of 100 marks.