

Biology question-decoding routine

Six decisions to make before writing an answer

Use this routine to separate knowing the topic from understanding what a question requires you to do with that knowledge.

01

READ

Read the whole question, including data, figures, units and marks.

02

DECODE

Identify the command word and the exact Biology idea being tested.

03

REPHRASE

Put the question into your own words without changing its demand.

04

PREDICT

List the ideas, comparisons or causal links a complete answer needs.

05

RESPOND

Use precise Biology in a structure that matches the command word.

06

CHECK

Compare the answer with the original question: did you perform the task?

KNOWLEDGE FIRST

The routine cannot replace the Biology. It helps students select, organise and communicate what they know.

Student thinking record

Use the prompts that help. Fade the sheet as the decisions become automatic.

QUESTION

Include any data, figure, units and marks

COMMAND WORD

What must the answer do?

BIOLOGY FOCUS

What knowledge is relevant?

MY REPHRASED QUESTION

Keep the original demand

IDEAS, COMPARISONS OR CAUSAL LINKS I PREDICT

MY RESPONSE

FINAL CHECK

☐ I performed the command word.

☐ I used precise Biology.

☐ Every sentence helps answer this question.