

Cell structure

| Specification reference | Checklist questions | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 3.2.1.1 | Can you describe the structure of eukaryotic cells, including: | |
| 3.2.1.1 | Can you explain that eukaryotic cells become specialised for specific functions in complex multicellular organisms? | |
| 3.2.1.1 | Can you describe how specialised cells are organised into tissues, tissues into organs and organs into systems? | |
| 3.2.1.1 | Can you explain the adaptations of eukaryotic cells? | |
| 3.2.1.2 | Can you describe how prokaryotic cells differ from eukaryotic cells, including: • being much smaller • cytoplasm that lacks membrane-bound organelles • smaller ribosomes • no nucleus • a cell wall that contains murein, a glycoprotein? | |
| 3.2.1.2 | Can you list other features of prokaryotic cells: one or more plasmids a capsule surrounding the cell one or more flagella? | |



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| 3.2.1.2 | Can you explain that viruses are acellular and non-living? | |
| 3.2.1.2 | Can you describe the structure of virus particles, including: • genetic material • capsid • attachment protein? | |
| 3.2.1.3 | Can you describe the principles and limitations of: optical microscopes transmission electron microscopes scanning electron microscopes? | |
| 3.2.1.3 | Can you measure the size of an object viewed with an optical microscope? | |
| 3.2.1.3 | Can you explain the difference between magnification and resolution? | |
| 3.2.1.33 | Can you use the formula: $magnification = \frac{\text{size of image}}{\text{size of real object}}$ | |
| 3.2.1.3 | Can you describe the principles of cell fractionation and ultracentrifugation in separating cell components? | |
| 3.2.1.3 | Can you explain how the scientific community previously distinguished between artefacts and cell organelles? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain that not all cells, within multicellular organisms, retain the ability to divide? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you describe how eukaryotic cells that do retain the ability to divide show a cell cycle? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain that DNA replication occurs during the interphase of the cell cycle? | |



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| 3.2.1.2 | Can you explain what happens in mitosis: a eukaryotic cell divides to produce two daughter cells, each with the identical copies of DNA produced by the parent cell during DNA replication? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you describe the behaviour of chromosomes during interphase, prophase, metaphase, anaphase and telophase of mitosis? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain the role of spindle fibres attached to centromeres in the separation of chromatids? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you describe how the cytoplasm usually divides (cytokinesis), producing two new cells? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you recognise the stages of the cell cycle: interphase, prophase, metaphase, anaphase, and telophase (including cytokinesis)? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain the appearance of cells in each stage of mitosis? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain that mitosis is a controlled process? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain how uncontrolled cell division can lead to the formation of tumours and of cancers? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain that many cancer treatments are directed at controlling the rate of cell division? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain what binary fission of prokaryotic cells involves: • replication of circular DNA and plasmids • division of the cytoplasm to produce two daughter cells? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you explain that viruses do not undergo cell division, as they are non-living? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you describe how, following injection of their nucleic acid, the infected host cell replicates the virus particles? | |

3 Cell structure Checklist

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| 3.2.2 | Can you prepare stained squashes of cells from plant root tips? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you set up and use an optical microscope to identify the stages of mitosis in stained squashes and calculate a mitotic index? | |
| 3.2.2 | Can you measure the apparent size of cells in the root tip and calculate their actual size using the formula: $actual size = \frac{size \ of \ image}{magnification}$ | |