

Features of organisms

Revision notes · Viruses: why they are not made of cells, and their two features, a protein coat and genetic material.

For Cambridge IGCSE Combined Science 0653. **Supplement** is Extended content, only examined on Papers 2 and 4.

Features of organisms **Spec B10.1** **Supplement**

Viruses **Spec B10.1.5**

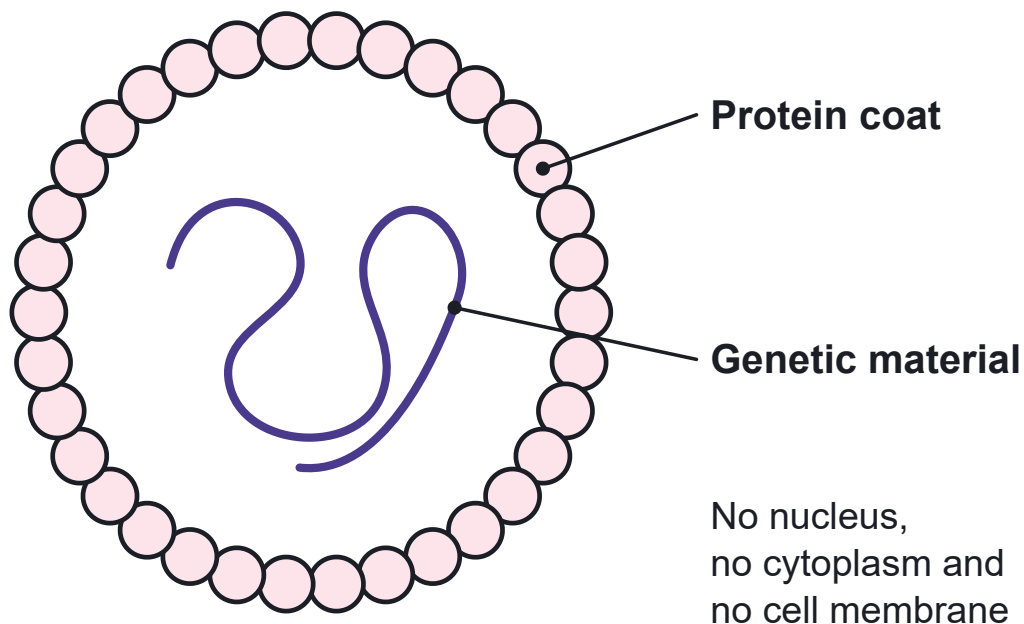
Supplement

A **virus** is much smaller than a bacterium. Viruses are not made of cells, so they do not fit into the five kingdoms. The features of a virus are limited to two: a **protein coat** and **genetic material**.

Supplement

Features of a virus

Part	Description
Protein coat	Surrounds and protects the genetic material
Genetic material	Carries the instructions for making new viruses; inside the protein coat



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A virus has only a **protein coat** and **genetic material**.

Supplement

Exam tip: Do not describe a virus as having a nucleus, cytoplasm or cell membrane. State protein coat and genetic material, and nothing else.

Quick check

1. **Supplement** State the two features of a virus.

Quick check answers

Features of organisms

1. A protein coat and genetic material.