# Respondent 12 Interview Summary

Field of Research: Plant path and crop biotechnology

## Question 1 (1, 3, 4

* Yes
* People are more interested in plants than animals
* Applies to everyone, students and not

## Question 2 (1,5,12, 6

* Yes, in an undergrad level
* Not so much in PG in biotech
* Duel major system is an issue, people chose PS and another but use the other subject as their main subject over PS
* In such cases the credit doesn’t go to the dept
* Interest does play a role; we can see that in the dual major system
* Perhaps also a perception that there are more job opportunities in the other fields than in PS

## Question 3 (1, 11,7,14

* Broad approach
* PS module does need revamping
* You will need to link everything together through the module
* Remember these matric students are all coming from very different backgrounds
* Students need background/ fundamental knowledge but showing the applications and relevance of PS in first year can be valuable
* But you need to make sure that those who haven’t done biology in HS have the background to go into second year properly equipped

## Question 4 (2,4,7,

* All important
* One has to be sensitive when teaching evolution due to the various religious backgrounds of students
* Top two: pathways and transformation and structure and function and evolution is important too
* Systems could almost be number two, that is very important
* A challenge of the course is deciding what we need to put in and what we need to leave out

## Question 5 (3,5,8,

* Process of science is very important
* Shouldn’t redo what is done in first semester in second semester
* Process of science is particularly important and can be incorporated as part of the prac component
* Interdisciplinary nature of science is easy to incorporate and important to show
* Collaboration can be shown in the same way
* Demonstrates the amount of people needed to undertake a crop biotechnology project
* These two can be built into part of the course where you show the relevance of the work you are doing
* Communication might not be critical for first year
* Integration of science and society can be important especially from a job opportunities point of view, showing the students the potential jobs that are available
* Working with data is a useful skill, especially since that skill is not taught in matric very well and this is built on in second year
* Top two: interdisciplinary nature of science and collaboration
* Can group certain things together like interdisciplinary and collab and data and process of science

## Question 6

* Concepts: perhaps information flow
* Communication is not critical

## Question 7

* Unsure of what question was asking
* Had not heard of the concept before once explained

## Question 8 (7,9,

* Department staff are on the same page that the module needs to be revamped
* Need to make sure that everything that is needed for second year is taught in the new course and that there aren’t big gaps as a result of the revamp
* Need to consider what kind of textbook to use if you are going to use one or not, makes sense as a reference for first years, alternatively you can write a whole new textbook
* A new textbook has advantages like its online and can be easily updated, and will also use African examples instead of American or European examples
* Design of the practical component is a challenge, especially now with COVID

## Question 9

* Making your own textbook would be helpful, it’s a lot of work but it could be helpful and relevant across the whole country so it could be a cooperative thing
* The practicals need to be made interesting, there is so much out there to do and we have resources like the museum in the old botany department that we can use, we just need to make it more interesting than in the past.

## Question 10

* In general, the lecturers are on board with the revamp
* Balancing the workload is an issue
* Good to not have too many lecturers, it does help with exposure and balancing the workload for the lecturers which helps but not necessarily ideal
* Older lecturers might have a hard time changing especially in regards to leaving out aspects that were traditionally taught in botany

## Question 11

* Best way to sell it would be that it would attract more students to the PS degree
* Would have to market in schools too but could also make people change from other degrees
* Showing the job opportunities is a good idea too it makes it more relatable to students

## Question 12

* They are important
* There are logistical challenges because of the large classes
* Could deal with things like lab safety or microscopy
* Making sure basic lab knowledge is there like how to use equipment and how to measure things and doing some basic data analysis and so on