**2023 specification**
first exams in 2025 (2024 for AS)

Multiple-Choice Practice Questions

for AS / A Level Year 1 OCR A Biology

Modules 1–4

Update v1.1, May 2024

zigzageducation.co.uk

POD
7298

Publish your own work... Write to a brief...
Register at publishmenow.co.uk

🔗 Follow us on X (Twitter) [@ZigZagScience](https://twitter.com/ZigZagScience)

Contents

Thank You for Choosing ZigZag Education.....	ii
Teacher Feedback Opportunity	iii
Terms and Conditions of Use	iv
Teacher’s Introduction.....	1
Section One: Multiple-Choice Question Bank 1.....	2
Topic 1 (Practical Skills).....	2
Topic 2 (Cell Structure).....	5
Topic 3 (Biological Molecules).....	7
Topic 4 (Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids)	10
Topic 5 (Enzymes and Reactions).....	11
Topic 6 (Membranes in Cells).....	12
Topic 7 (Cell Division, Diversity and Organisation)	14
Topic 8 (Exchange Surfaces).....	16
Topic 9 (Transport in Animals)	18
Topic 10 (Transport in Plants)	20
Topic 11 (Communicable Diseases)	22
Topic 12 (Biodiversity).....	24
Topic 13 (Classification and Evolution)	26
Answers to Multiple-Choice Question Bank 1	29
Section Two: Multiple-Choice Question Bank 2.....	37
Topic 1 (Practical Skills).....	37
Topic 2 (Cell Structure).....	40
Topic 3 (Biological Molecules).....	42
Topic 4 (Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids)	45
Topic 5 (Enzymes and Reactions).....	47
Topic 6 (Membranes in Cells).....	49
Topic 7 (Cell Division, Diversity and Organisation)	50
Topic 8 (Exchange Surfaces).....	52
Topic 9 (Transport in Animals)	53
Topic 10 (Transport in Plants)	55
Topic 11 (Communicable Diseases)	57
Topic 12 (Biodiversity).....	59
Topic 13 (Classification and Evolution)	61
Answers to Multiple-Choice Question Bank 2	64

Teacher's Introduction

For the **AS and A Level Year 1 Biology course**, the OCR exam board includes emphasis on multiple-choice questioning. In AS, MCQs comprise 20 / 70 marks of the **Breadth in Biology** paper, while in the A Level qualification, they comprise 15 / 100 marks from each paper (**Component 1: Biological Processes** and **Component 2: Biological Diversity**).

Multiple-choice questions test a range of skills, from comprehension to quick and accurate problem solving, to awareness of common misconceptions. This multiple-choice bank resource has been designed to ensure that students encounter a range of multiple-choice questions before their exam, including factual recall, application of knowledge, mathematical skills and practical skills from Modules 1–4 of the AS and Year 1 A Level courses.

The resource is split into two sections:

Section One: Multiple-Choice Question Bank 1

This section includes 125 multiple-choice questions that span each topic making up the AS and Year 1 A Level course. The questions mimic the exam style of the OCR exam board and reflect the depth, difficulty and format of the questions the student will face in their upcoming exam.

A mark scheme is provided at the end of the section, which includes the answers along with worked solutions. The additional commentary to accompany them gives students an opportunity to identify the areas that still need improvement, and also to see where any mistakes were made and correct themselves for next time.

Section Two: Multiple-Choice Question Bank 2

This section includes another 123 multiple-choice questions that similarly span each topic that makes up the AS and Year 1 A Level course. The questions deliberately mimic those presented to the student in Section One; this has been done so that, after working through the worked solutions of Section One, students can complete another set of questions and directly compare their attempts. The format allows students to correct their mistakes from Section One, identify areas where they have improved their understanding and highlight areas that still require further work.

A mark scheme for Section Two is also provided at the end of the section. The mark scheme does not include worked solutions.

We hope you find this resource to be a valuable addition to your classroom.

January 2017

Update v1.1, May 2024:

Changes have been made to reflect the 2023 accessibility and clarity amendments to the specification.

The following questions (and associated answers) have been removed as they are no longer covered by the specification:

- Section Two, Topic 11, questions 2 and 11

The following questions have been amended for clarity in matching the specification:

- Section One, Topic 11, questions 5 and 7, and Section Two, Topic 11, question 6: T-regulator cell replaced as possible options
- Section Two, Topic 11, question 1: Question amended to focus on ring rot
- Section Two, Topic 11, question 4: Question amended to focus on fibrin
- Section Two, Topic 13, question 10: Standard deviation formula provided

Other minor improvements:

- Section One, Topic 3, question 5: Wording improved to clarify there is only a single answer
- Section One, Topic 8, questions 3 and 4 answers: Throat corrected to trachea
- Section One, Topic 11, question 1: *E. coli* italicised to match correct biological convention

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other Biology resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

Go to [zzed.uk/freeupdates](https://www.zzed.uk/freeupdates)

Section One: Multiple-Choice Questions

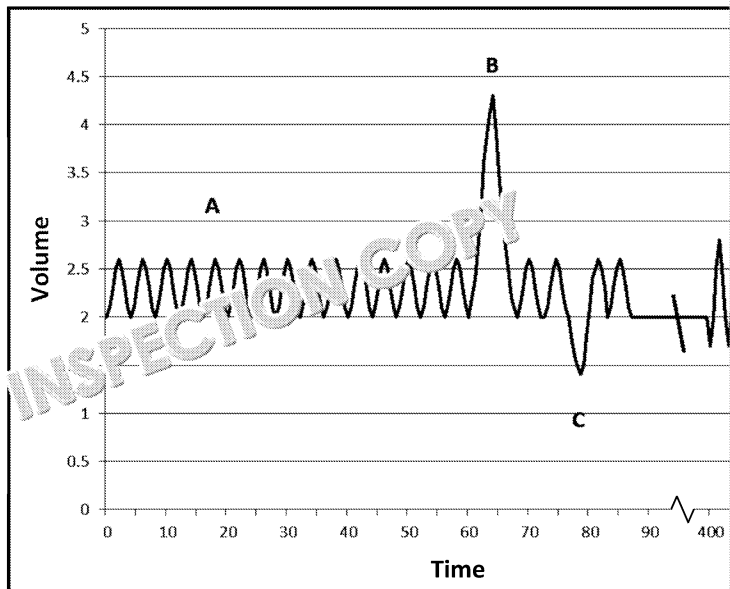
Topic 1: Practical Skills

- 1) Some students cultivate baker's yeast in a test tube at 20 °C, 30 °C, 40 °C and 50 °C to determine the rate of respiration. Later, the students repeat the experiment in a dark cupboard. This may have an impact on respiration rate. Identify the independent variable.
- A. Rate of respiration, temperature
 - B. Temperature, availability of light
 - C. Availability of light, rate of respiration
 - D. Temperature, species of yeast
- 2) Identify the dependent variable in these experiments.
- A. Rate of respiration
 - B. Temperature
 - C. The classroom
 - D. Availability of light
- 3) Identify a control variable in these experiments.
- A. Choice of classroom
 - B. Depth of test tube
 - C. Rate of respiration
 - D. Nutrients available for yeast
- 4) You are planning to study how vigorous exercise affects ventilation rate. Which piece of equipment would you likely use?
- A. Colorimeter
 - B. Spirometer
 - C. Potometer
 - D. Manometer
- 5) Which unit would be most appropriate for measuring the length of an animal cell?
- A. am (attometres)
 - B. mm (millimetres)
 - C. nm (nanometres)
 - D. μm (micrometres)
- 6) Which unit would be most appropriate for measuring the length of an animal cell?
- A. am (attometres)
 - B. mm (millimetres)
 - C. nm (nanometres)
 - D. μm (micrometres)

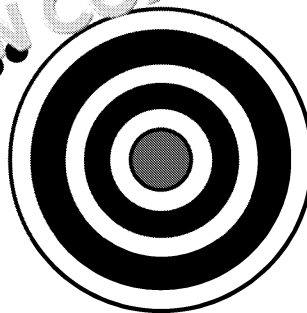
INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





- 12) The graph above shows spirometer results in a student study. There are three labels A, B and C on the graph. Where should they be added?
- A. In a headed key next to the table
 - B. In the text describing the graph
 - C. At the end of the x and y axes respectively
 - D. Directly after the name of each variable, in brackets



- 13) How would you describe the archer aiming at the target above? (The target is shown above.)
- A. Precise but not high resolution
 - B. High resolution but not precise
 - C. Precise but not accurate
 - D. Accurate but not precise
- 14) Pick a sentence that describes the difference between random and systematic errors.
- A. You can calibrate your results to take random errors into account, but not systematic errors.
 - B. Systematic errors increase when an experiment is repeated, while random errors do not.
 - C. Random errors are minimised by repeating an experiment, while systematic errors are not.
 - D. Random errors reduce the accuracy of results, while systematic errors reduce the precision of results.

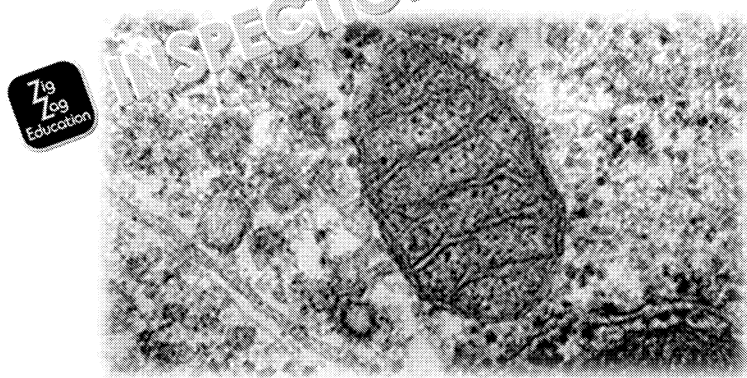
INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 2 (Cell Structure)

- 1) Why can a light microscope not produce useful images at greater than 200 \times magnification?
 - A. The magnification is limited by our ability to perfect the fine shape of the lenses.
 - B. It is not possible to cut slices of tissue thin enough without destroying the structures of interest.
 - C. The wax used for embedding tissue samples distorts light too much to allow high magnifications.
 - D. The resolution is limited by the wavelength of light waves.
- 2) What is the purpose of differential staining?
 - A. To make the whole specimen easier to see
 - B. To highlight specific cell structures and make them more visible
 - C. To make the stained tissue appear sharper, increasing resolution
 - D. To reduce deflection of light
- 3) Students measure a structure as 12 mm long when studied under the microscope. The actual length of the structure is 29.7 μm . What approximate magnification is being used?
 - A. 40 \times
 - B. 360 \times
 - C. 400 \times
 - D. 3,600 \times



- 4) Which organelle do you think is shown in the electron micrograph above?
 - A. Golgi apparatus
 - B. Ribosome
 - C. Nucleolus
 - D. Mitochondrion

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 5) Which organelle listed below is not bound by a membrane?
- Centriole
 - Chloroplast
 - Nucleus
 - Smooth endoplasmic reticulum
- 6) What function does a lysosome carry out?
- Engulfing damaged organelles and foreign matter
 - Transporting hydrophobic lipids around the cell
 - Producing steroid hormones and cholesterol
 - Forming a protective envelope around the nucleus
- 7) Which of these structures modifies complete proteins to produce glycoproteins?
- Rough endoplasmic reticulum
 - Smooth endoplasmic reticulum
 - Golgi apparatus
 - Mitochondria
- 8) Which description below is *not* true of prokaryotic cells?
- They store their genetic material in the form of DNA.
 - They have a more developed cytoskeleton than eukaryotic cells.
 - They have cell walls made of murein (also known as peptidoglycan).
 - They are generally smaller than eukaryotic cells.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 3 (Biological Molecules)

- 1) Which sentence describes hydrogen bonding?
- A. A slightly positive oxygen is attracted to a slightly negative hydrogen molecule.
 - B. A slightly positive hydrogen is attracted to a slightly negative oxygen in the same molecule.
 - C. A slightly positive oxygen is attracted to a slightly negative hydrogen in a neighbouring molecule.
 - D. A slightly positive hydrogen is attracted to a slightly negative oxygen in a neighbouring molecule.
- 2) Choose the property of water which allows some insects to walk on its surface.
- A. Adhesion
 - B. Solvent
 - C. Cohesion
 - D. Thermal stability
- 3) Which of these molecules could you make by combining many sugar monomers?
- A. Polypeptide
 - B. Polysaccharide
 - C. Triglyceride
 - D. RNA
- 4) A monomer of amylopectin is made up of:
- A. α -glucose molecules joined by 1-4 and 1-6 glycosidic bonds
 - B. β -glucose molecules joined by 1-2 and 1-4 glycosidic bonds
 - C. α -glucose molecules joined by 1-4 glycosidic bonds only
 - D. β -glucose molecules joined by 1-4 glycosidic bonds only
- 5) Below are some statements about cellulose. Choose the statement which is correct.
- A. Cellulose is highly branched, which means it is effective for energy storage.
 - B. Cellulose is straight and arranged into tightly packed fibres, making it good for energy storage.
 - C. Cellulose is highly branched, and forms a waxy-like protective coat on the cell membrane.
 - D. Cellulose is straight and forms many hydrogen bonds between fibre molecules, contributing to the cell wall structure.

INSPECTION COPY

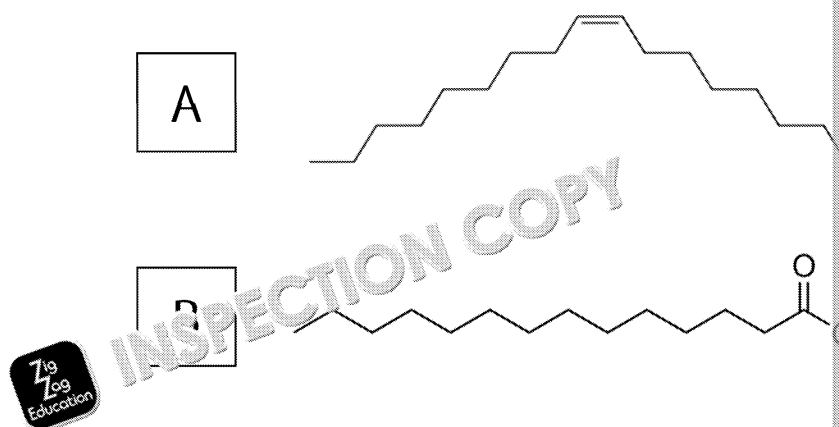
**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) Pick the sentence which correctly describes a triglyceride.
- Three fatty acids joined to a glycerol molecule
 - Three glycerol molecules joined to a fatty acid
 - Three fatty acids joined to a glycolipid
 - Three glycolipid molecules joined to a fatty acid
- 7) Amino acids have three parts – an amino (NH_2) group, a variable R-group and a carboxyl group.
- An aldehyde (CHO) group
 - An amine (NH_2) group
 - A carboxyl (COOH) group
 - A ketone (COOH) group
- 8) Which kind of bond joins amino acids together, forming a protein?
- Glycosidic
 - Monatomic
 - Peptide
 - Ester
- 9) When many large molecular sub-units join together to make one protein's...
- Primary structure
 - Secondary structure
 - Tertiary structure
 - Quaternary structure
- 10) How many different sequences of three amino acids are possible?
- 400
 - 8,000
 - 60
 - 27
- 11) Which group of proteins do virtually all enzymes belong to?
- Globular
 - Fibrous
 - Structural
 - Membrane

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





- 12) Above are diagrams of two fatty acids. Which statement below is true?
- Both A and B are unsaturated.
 - A is saturated and B is unsaturated.
 - B is saturated and A is unsaturated.
 - Both A and B are saturated.
- 13) Which is the correct molecular formula for a hydrogen carbonate ion?
- H_3CO^-
 - CHO_3^+
 - HCO_3^-
 - CHO^{3+}
- 14) Which result would indicate the presence of lipids in an emulsion test?
- Formation of a cloudy white liquid
 - Mixture turns from straw-yellow to deep blue
 - Mixture turns from bright blue to brick red
 - An emulsion test does not test for the presence of lipids.
- 15) Pick one component which is required to adapt Benedict's test for non-reducing sugars.
- The digestive enzyme trypsin
 - A strong acid, such as hydrochloric acid
 - An alkaline powder, such as sodium hydroxide
 - Benedict's test only works on reducing sugars.
- 16) What does the R_f value describe in chromatography?
- The absolute distance that the solvent travels up the stationary phase
 - The distance the solute travels, divided by the distance the solvent travels
 - The absolute distance that the solute travels up the stationary phase
 - The distance that the solvent travels, divided by the distance the solute travels

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 4 (Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids)

- 1) Which of these bases is a purine?
 - A. Cytosine
 - B. Uracil
 - C. Thymine
 - D. Guanine
- 2) Finish the sentence: ATP comprises:
 - A. An adenine base, a hexose sugar and three inorganic phosphate groups
 - B. An alanine base, a pentose sugar and two inorganic phosphate groups
 - C. An alanine base, a hexose sugar and two inorganic phosphate groups
 - D. An adenine base, a pentose sugar and three inorganic phosphate groups
- 3) The two strands of DNA are joined by many _____.
 - A. Hydrogen bonds
 - B. Ionic bonds
 - C. Covalent bonds
 - D. Nucleic bonds
- 4) If a template DNA strand reads ATTGCA, the equivalent section of the complementary strand is:
 - A. TUUCGUC
 - B. GCCATGA
 - C. UUUUUUU
 - D. TAAACGTC
- 5) The DNA code is described as _____ because it is common to all organisms and _____ because multiple different triplets sometimes code for the same amino acid.
 - A. Universal, overlapping
 - B. Non-overlapping, degenerate
 - C. Universal, degenerate
 - D. Degenerate, non-overlapping
- 6) Which of these stages is a part of transcription?
 - A. tRNA brings amino acids into the cell so they can be joined by peptide bonds
 - B. A polymerase enzyme causes mRNA nucleotides to join to complementary bases
 - C. mRNA is taken to the ribosome, to synthesise a protein.
 - D. DNA polymerase creates a new complementary DNA strand.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 5 (Enzymes and Reactions)

- 1) What function does the enzyme catalase have in the human body?
 - A. It breaks down amylose (a sugar storage molecule) into maltose.
 - B. It breaks down hydrogen peroxide to form water and oxygen.
 - C. It breaks down the cell membrane to destroy old red blood cells.
 - D. It breaks down large, indigestible proteins into smaller peptides.
- 2) A digestive enzyme that is most active in the stomach is likely to have
 - A. 1
 - B. 3
 - C. 7
 - D. 12
- 3) This model of enzyme activity suggests that the substrate slightly changes shape making it more effective:
 - A. Lock and key model
 - B. Activation model
 - C. Induced fit model
 - D. Complementary model
- 4) An enzyme-controlled reaction has a temperature coefficient (Q_{10}) of 2. If the temperature of 45 °C. The temperature is increased from 20 °C to 40 °C, how many times faster will the reaction occur?
 - A. Four times faster
 - B. Eight times faster
 - C. Ten times faster
 - D. Twenty times faster
- 5) Which term correctly describes a molecule that fits into a secondary site on the enzyme's shape so it cannot bond with its substrate?
 - A. Permanent inhibitor
 - B. Non-competitive inhibitor
 - C. Competitive inhibitor
 - D. Active inhibitor
- 6) In terms of enzyme-controlled reactions, what is a co-factor?
 - A. A small molecule which joins to an enzyme to create the specific active site
 - B. A chemical which binds to an enzyme and slows down its rate of reaction
 - C. A competitor enzyme which also works on the same substrate but produces a different product
 - D. A non-protein component, such as an ion, which is required for an enzyme to function

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



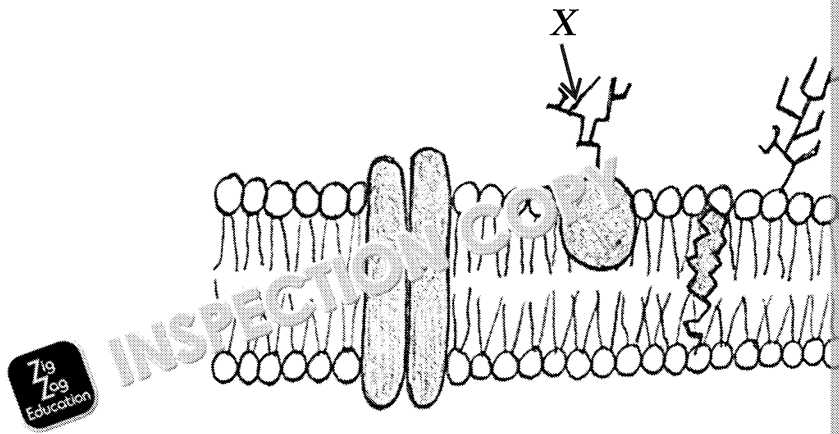
Topic 6 (Membranes in Cells)

- 1) Which of these correctly describes the fluid mosaic model of cell membrane?
 - A. A triglyceride bilayer with cholesterol channels that control the movement of molecules across the membrane
 - B. A phospholipid bilayer with extrinsic proteins and intrinsic proteins
 - C. A phospholipid bilayer with cholesterol channels that control the movement of molecules across the membrane
 - D. A triglyceride bilayer with extrinsic proteins and intrinsic proteins
- 2) Glycolipids are a component of all cell membranes. What is their main function?
 - A. To allow cells to recognise other cells and form tissues
 - B. To control cell division
 - C. To allow certain molecules to cross the cell membrane
 - D. To catalyse metabolic reactions
- 3) Channel proteins help molecules to cross the cell membrane. These molecules are:
 - A. Too large and/or too hydrophilic to cross the membrane
 - B. Too large and/or too hydrophobic to cross the membrane
 - C. Toxic to the membrane
 - D. Too slow-moving to cross the membrane
- 4) The temperature surrounding a cell drops from 35 °C to 20 °C. How might the cell regulate its fluidity to deal with this reduction in temperature?
 - A. Increase the proportion of saturated fatty acids in the cell membrane
 - B. Increase the proportion of unsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane
 - C. Increase the number of membrane-crossing protein channels, to allow molecules to enter the cell
 - D. Reduce the number of membrane-crossing protein channels, to allow molecules to move more freely

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





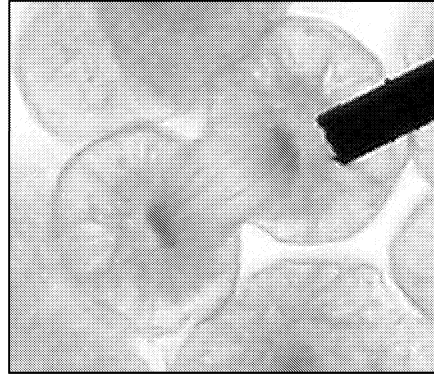
- 5) On the diagram above, molecule X is part of cellular signalling. What is it?
- A. Cholesterol
 - B. Carrier protein
 - C. Glycoprotein
 - D. Actin
- 6) Which term could describe the process of a cell ejecting material by surface vesicle fusion with the plasma membrane, and then allowing a vesicle to bud off from the membrane?
- A. Phagocytosis
 - B. Endocytosis
 - C. Pinocytosis
 - D. Exocytosis
- 7) An animal cell with a water potential of -450 kPa is placed into a solution with a water potential of -150 kPa. Describe the likely state of the cell after fifteen minutes.
- A. Plasmolysed
 - B. Crenated
 - C. Cytolysed
 - D. Turgid

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 7 (Cell Division, Diversity and Orga

- 1) Suggest one purpose of the G1 checkpoint during interphase.
- A. To check that the DNA has not been damaged or incorrectly copied
 - B. To confirm that the mitochondria are functioning correctly
 - C. To check that homologous chromosomes are lining up correctly at the metaphase plate
 - D. To confirm that the nucleus has properly reformed after cell division



- 2) Which stage of mitosis is shown in the picture/diagram above?
- A. Prophase
 - B. Metaphase
 - C. Anaphase
 - D. Telophase

- 3) Which of the following disintegrates in the early stages of mitosis?

- A. Spindle fibres
- B. Nuclear envelope
- C. Golgi apparatus
- D. Cell membrane

- 4) Which of these is *not* a function of mitosis?

- A. Enabling the zygote to divide into many cells
- B. To increase genetic diversity
- C. To allow the body to grow
- D. To repair tissue damage

- 5) Which of these sentences correctly describes a *difference* between mitosis and meiosis?

- A. Mitosis creates four daughter cells, while meiosis only creates two
- B. Mitosis creates diploid daughter cells, while meiosis creates haploid daughter cells
- C. Mitosis creates four daughter cells, while meiosis only creates two
- D. Mitosis occurs at a specific point in the life cycle, while meiosis occurs throughout the life cycle

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) During which stage of meiosis do homologous chromosomes line up at the equator?
- Prophase I
 - Prophase II
 - Metaphase I
 - Metaphase II
- 7) Which specialised cell has an azurophilic granule which contains enzymes that can kill bacteria?
- Sperm cell
 - Ciliated epithelial cell
 - Gut epithelial cell
 - Neutrophil
- 8) Which list is in the correct order (cell, tissue, organ, organ system), from smallest to largest?
- Cartilage, chondrocyte, trachea, respiratory
 - Cartilage, chondrocyte, respiratory, trachea
 - Chondrocyte, cartilage, trachea, respiratory
 - Chondrocyte, trachea, cartilage, respiratory
- 9) What is an apical meristem?
- A plant tissue which produces branches, and is mostly involved in lateral growth
 - A plant tissue which is found at the tips of shoots and roots, and can produce many different types of cells
 - A plant tissue which develops into xylem tissue when its cells die
 - A plant tissue which is found at the centre of flowers, and produces gametes

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 8 (Exchange Surfaces)

- 1) A cube has sides measuring $5\text{ cm} \times 5\text{ cm} \times 5\text{ cm}$. What is its surface area to volume ratio?
 - A. $0.83 : 1$
 - B. $1.2 : 1$
 - C. $4.17 : 1$
 - D. $5 : 1$
- 2) If the length of one side of the cube is doubled, how much does the volume increase?
 - A. Four times
 - B. Five times
 - C. Eight times
 - D. Ten times
- 3) Which of these qualities is *not* a feature of an effective gaseous exchange surface?
 - A. Thin, to allow substances to move across easily
 - B. Sticky, to trap and neutralise pathogens
 - C. Moist, to improve absorption of gases
 - D. Huge surface area, to maximise the area across which air comes in
- 4) Which cells in the trachea produce mucus, which is used to trap dirt and pathogens?
 - A. Ciliated epithelial cells
 - B. Chondrocytes
 - C. Squamous epithelial cells
 - D. Goblet cells
- 5) Which of these tissues forms the gaseous exchange surface within the lungs?
 - A. Bronchioles
 - B. Trachea
 - C. Bronchi
 - D. Alveoli
- 6) Which sentence describes the role of the internal intercostal muscles in breathing?
 - A. They contract, pulling the ribcage down, forwards and inwards.
 - B. They relax, pushing the ribcage up, backwards and inwards.
 - C. They contract, pulling the ribcage upwards and outwards.
 - D. They relax, pushing the ribcage upwards and outwards.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 7) Which formula could you use to calculate a person's tidal volume?
- A. Reserve Volume \div Pulmonary Ventilation Rate
 - B. Pulmonary Ventilation Rate \times Breathing Rate
 - C. Pulmonary Ventilation Rate \div Breathing Rate
 - D. Reserve Volume \times Breathing Rate
- 8) Which term refers to the pores in human skin, which allow air to reach the blood capillaries?
- A. Trachioles
 - B. Capillaries
 - C. Stomata
 - D. Spiracles

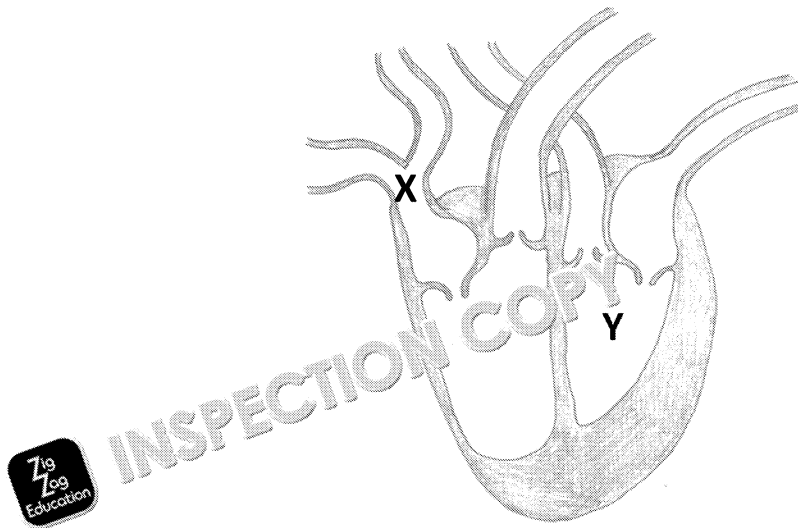
INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 9 (Transport in Animals)

- 1) Which of these features is specific to a double circulatory system?
 - A. Large lungs to maximise air flow
 - B. Blood which directly bathes cells
 - C. A system of branching vessels comprising arteries, veins and capillaries
 - D. A heart with four chambers
- 2) Identify one difference between arteries and veins.
 - A. Arteries have valves to prevent blood flowing backwards; veins do not
 - B. Arteries have thick walls rich in elastic muscle, while veins have thin walls
 - C. Arteries always carry oxygenated blood, while veins carry deoxygenated blood
 - D. Arteries only supply blood to the upper body, while veins are found throughout the body



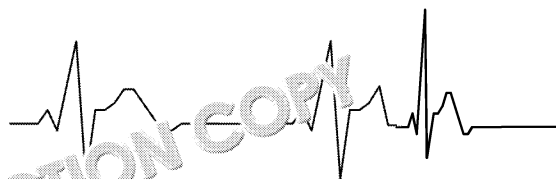
- 3) Name the blood vessel labelled as X.
 - A. Aorta
 - B. Pulmonary artery
 - C. Vena cava
 - D. Pulmonary vein
- 4) On the same diagram, name the component labelled as Y.
 - A. Left ventricle
 - B. Left atrium
 - C. Right ventricle
 - D. Right atrium

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 5) Which organ system absorbs tissue fluid in order to destroy potential pathogens?
- Lymphatic system
 - Circulatory system
 - Vascular system
 - Hydrostatic system
- 6) Which sentence describes the role of the Purkinje tissue in the cardiac cycle?
- It sets the heart rate and stimulates atrial contraction.
 - It prevents the ventricles from contracting at the same time as the atria.
 - It contracts to pull the semilunar valves closed.
 - It conducts a wave of excitation which causes the ventricles to contract.
- 7) Which of these effects is caused by the opening of the semilunar valve?
- Increase in ventricular pressure
 - Increase in atrial pressure
 - Decrease in pulmonary pressure
 - Increase in aortic pressure



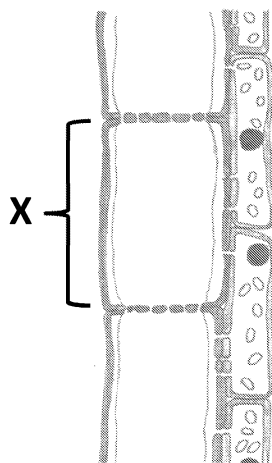
- 8) The electrocardiogram (ECG) output above shows a patient's heartbeat. What condition does the patient have?
- Bradycardia
 - Ectopic heartbeat
 - Fibrillation
 - Tachycardia
- 9) Hydrogen carbonate (HCO_3^-) ions gradually diffuse out of red blood cells. Which ion is transported in to replace them?
- Chloride ions (Cl^-)
 - Potassium ions (K^-)
 - Sodium ions (Na^+)
 - Potassium ions (K^+)
- 10) How does a decrease in CO_2 concentration affect oxygen binding with haemoglobin?
- It makes oxygen more likely to disassociate from haemoglobin.
 - It has no effect on oxygen-haemoglobin binding.
 - It causes oxygen molecules to bind more strongly to haemoglobin.
 - It makes oxygen more likely to bind with haemoglobin.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 10 (Transport in Plants)

- 1) Which of these is *not* a valid reason that multicellular plants need a mass transport system?
- A. To move CO₂ throughout the plant so it can be used in photosynthesis
 - B. To move mineral ions throughout the plant so they can be used to synthesise proteins
 - C. To move water throughout the plant where it is needed
 - D. To move sugars throughout the plant so they can be used for respiration



- 2) What name is given to the unit marked as X?
- A. Companion cell
 - B. Sieve end plate
 - C. Sieve tube element
 - D. Phloem tissue
- 3) Cambium is a vascular meristem. What does this mean?
- A. It is a tough structural tissue which provides support to the vessel elements.
 - B. It is a specialised respiration tissue, with many mitochondria to produce energy for transport.
 - C. It is a dead tissue, which allows for fast translocation of water and mineral ions.
 - D. It is an undifferentiated tissue, which can divide into xylem or phloem.
- 4) Suggest one way in which xylem is adapted to its function.
- A. It is mostly made from dead cells with no end walls, to reduce resistance to flow.
 - B. It is compact, to restrict the flow of water.
 - C. In trees, it turns into wood when it dies, protecting the plant.
 - D. It can turn into cambium when more of this tissue is needed.



**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 5) Which of these changes would normally *increase* the rate at which transpiration occurs?
- Reducing the temperature
 - Increasing the humidity
 - Reducing the width of xylem vessels
 - Increasing the wind speed
- 6) Which instrument is appropriate for measuring transpiration rate?
- Sphygmomanometer
 - Capillary tube
 - Spill meter
 - Potometer
- 7) If water flows into the root via cell walls, bringing ions with it, which pathway is it using?
- The symplast pathway
 - The transcellular pathway
 - The apoplast pathway
 - The vacuolar pathway
- 8) Which of these words describes a plant which would thrive in a desert environment?
- Hydrophyte
 - Cryptophyte
 - Xerophyte
 - Gametophyte
- 9) Which of these is a correct definition of translocation?
- Pull of water through the xylem, caused by evaporation from the leaves
 - Flow of sugar and other organic molecules through the phloem caused by hydrostatic gradients
 - Pull of sugars and other organic molecules through the xylem, caused by concentration gradients
 - Loss of water from the leaves, caused by opening of stomata

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 11 (Communicable Diseases)

- 1) Which of these organisms would not be considered a pathogen?
 - A. Tobacco mosaic virus
 - B. *E. coli* bacterium
 - C. Athlete's foot fungus
 - D. Plague-carrying flea
- 2) Complete the sentence: Malaria is caused by:
 - A. A bacterium
 - B. A fungus
 - C. A protoctist
 - D. A virus
- 3) Which term describes a tsetse fly, which carries the *Trypanosoma* pathogen from trypanosomiasis?
 - A. Transmitter
 - B. Vector
 - C. Host
 - D. Replicator
- 4) What is the purpose of callose in plants?
 - A. Blocks sieve tubes to slow the movement of pathogens
 - B. Irritates enzymes in herbivores to stop them digesting it
 - C. Stimulates growth of new leaves to replace ones which have been eaten
 - D. Coats leaves to stop airborne pathogens from entering the leaf
- 5) Which cell type is released in large numbers during an infection, to engulf pathogens?
 - A. Plasma cell
 - B. Neutrophil
 - C. T-helper cell
 - D. Keratinocyte
- 6) What are opsonins?
 - A. Small signalling proteins that encourage the clonal expansion of B cells
 - B. Molecules, usually antibodies, that bind to antigens and mark cells for phagocytosis
 - C. Chemical messengers that trigger B cells to phagocytise pathogens
 - D. Non-specific compounds that trigger swelling around the primary site of infection

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 7) Which immune cells survive and circulate for a long time, and are active against specific antigen?
- A. B-memory cells
 - B. T-helper cells
 - C. Plasma cells
 - D. T-killer cells
- 8) Why do agglutinin antibodies have two identical binding sites?
- A. They bind to two places on the antigen to prevent the pathogen from moving.
 - B. They bind to the antigen and then bind to a neutrophil to allow phagocytosis.
 - C. They cross-link, binding to two pathogens to immobilise them and prevent movement.
 - D. Binding sites are easily damaged, and so the second site can be used if the first becomes ineffective.
- 9) A TB vaccine involves injecting a patient with the inactivated, 'dead' form of the bacteria. What kind of immunity does this provide?
- A. Artificial, active
 - B. Artificial, passive
 - C. Natural, active
 - D. Natural, passive
- 10) For people with coeliac disease, consuming gluten triggers an inappropriate immune response that can shorten the villi and damage the intestinal lining. What type of condition is coeliac disease?
- A. Systemic disease
 - B. Secondary immune disease
 - C. Communicable disease
 - D. Autoimmune disease
- 11) How would you achieve herd immunity?
- A. By vaccinating a whole cohort of young people, so they can't transmit the disease.
 - B. By vaccinating enough people that a pathogen can't transmit itself and eventually die or survive in a population.
 - C. By vaccinating animals which carry a disease (such as TB in cows) so they can't pass it on to humans.
 - D. By vaccinating specific people who are at high risk of a disease, to prevent the disease from spreading.
- 12) Identify one reason why overuse of antibiotics is a problem.
- A. Bacteria that are repeatedly exposed to antibiotics gradually develop resistance.
 - B. Antibiotics tend to damage the body's stomach and intestinal lining.
 - C. Antibiotics cause the body to reduce its white blood cell count, since the immune system is not stimulated.
 - D. A mutation that causes antibiotic resistance can occur, and will spread if the use of antibiotics are commonplace.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 12 (Biodiversity)

- 1) A political polling company deliberately weights its interviews so that 18–35 year olds, 40% of responses come from 35–55 year olds, and 40% year olds. What kind of sampling is this?

A. Opportunistic sampling
B. Stratified sampling
C. Systematic sampling
D. Random sampling

- 2) Which of these methods would *not* provide information about biodiversity?

A. Counting the number of species present in five randomly located 1 m² quadrats
B. Counting percentage cover of plants in quadrats, to estimate relative abundance
C. Marking, releasing and recapturing individuals from a species to estimate population size
D. Sequencing the genes of endemic species to find out how many loci are polymorphic

- 3) Which formula is used to calculate Simpson's Index of Diversity?

A. $x = 1 - [\sum (\frac{n}{N})^2]$
B. $x = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}}$
C. $x = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
D. $x = \frac{MC}{R}$

Marram Grass	1
Bird's Foot Trefoil	4
Primrose	7
Pyramidal Orchid	12
Wood Sage	9
Gorse	6

- 4) Use these values to calculate an Index of Diversity for a beach sample.

A. Needs more information
B. 0.21
C. 0.79
D. 1.22

- 5) A short section of Chromosome 1 is studied for a population of ants. It has 34,900 loci. 34.9% of these are polymorphic. What is the proportion of polymorphic loci in the population?

A. 0.0206
B. 34.9
C. 4,475,000
D. Not enough information

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) What is a monoculture?
- A. A field without hedgerows, reducing the space for birds to nest
 - B. A biotic habitat that is only suited to one specific animal
 - C. A laboratory experiment in which plants are cloned and cultivated genetic diversity
 - D. An agricultural environment dominated by one crop species
- 7) Which of these is an example of *ex situ* conservation?
- A. Scotland's Marine Conservation Zone
 - B. Baiting Wildlife Reserve
 - C. Berlin Zoological Garden
 - D. Kafue National Park in Zambia
- 8) Which of these is a goal of the Convention on Biological Diversity?
- A. To increase biodiversity by resettling endangered species
 - B. To establish a National Park system in all countries by 2050
 - C. To reduce the impact of climate change through temperature targets
 - D. To ensure fair access to the benefits of genetic resources, such as seed breeding programs



INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 13 (Classification and Evolution)

- 1) Which of these lists is in the correct order – from the largest taxon to the smallest?
- A. Class, order, family, genus
 - B. Order, class, genus, species
 - C. Kingdom, class, family, order
 - D. Phylum, class, family, order
- 2) *Patella pellucida* is a small freshwater limpet. Which of these sentences is correct?
- A. *Patella* is its specific name and *pellucida* is its generic name.
 - B. *Patella* is its generic name and *pellucida* is its specific name.
 - C. *Patella* is its binomial name and *pellucida* is its specific name.
 - D. *Patella* is its specific name and *pellucida* is its binomial name.
- 3) An organism is a heterotroph, with a cell wall made from chitin. Which kingdom does it belong to?
- A. Fungi
 - B. Protocista
 - C. Plantae
 - D. Archaea
- 4) An organism has circular DNA and 70S (small) ribosomes. Which kingdom does it belong to?
- A. Animalia
 - B. Protocista
 - C. Fungi
 - D. Protocista
- 5) Which of these sentences best describes phylogeny?
- A. Term used to describe a specific level of a classification system
 - B. Any system of classification based on non-overlapping groups
 - C. A classification system based on shared evolutionary history and relationships
 - D. A classification system based on similar ecological niches
- 6) How do fossils support the theory of evolution?
- A. They show that species which once existed have since become extinct
 - B. They let us see how the morphology of animals and plants gradually changes over time
 - C. They show that life on Earth has existed for millions of years.
 - D. They show that evolutionary change is rare and usually occurs in small groups

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 7) Identify one way in which DNA can tell us how organisms are related
- Different groups of organisms have different genetic codes, with the same code coding for different amino acids.
 - Organisms with more similar DNA sequences within a group are more closely related.
 - Organisms which are closely related have the same number of chromosomes.
 - More complex organisms tend to have larger genomes, with more genes.
- 8) Rabbits belonging to the same species all have either a white or a tawn coat. This variation is this an example of?
- Continuous, interspecific
 - Continuous, intraspecific
 - Discontinuous, interspecific
 - Discontinuous, intraspecific

Student	Height	Student
Marcus	168 cm	Svetlana
Alison	171 cm	Ameer
Greg	176 cm	Jason
Li	159 cm	Max

- 9) Calculate the standard deviation of this set of data, from a class of secondary school children.

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\Sigma(x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$

- 5.92
 - 6.28
 - 6.72
 - 7.19
- 10) Which test is commonly used to compare two means?
- Student's t-test
 - Chi-squared test
 - Spearman's rank correlation
 - Standard deviation

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 11) Marsupial and placental moles are distantly related mammals, but they have both evolved and developed large, thick burrowing claws. What is this an example of?
- A. Adaptive radiation
 - B. Divergent evolution
 - C. Convergent evolution
 - D. Ecological radiation
- 12) According to the model of natural selection, which of these sentences is correct?
- A. Organisms pass on environmental variation on to their offspring during reproduction.
 - B. Having an allele which provides an advantage makes organisms more likely to survive and reproduce.
 - C. Over time, a population either becomes better adapted to its environment or becomes made extinct.
 - D. Evolution tends to be faster when a population is reduced to a small size, known as a 'genetic bottleneck'.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Answers to Multiple-Choice Questions

Topic 1: Practical Skills

1. **B. Temperature and availability of light.** These are the independent variables for conducting the experiment, and are set by the class.
2. **A. Rate of respiration.** This is a dependent variable because its value is expected to change when changing the independent variables.
3. **D. Nutrients available to yeast.** Controlling for a variable is a specific scientific technique to eliminate the effect of a variable which you are not studying on your result. If you add extra nutrients available to them, this would affect respiration and make the results less valid.
4. **B. Spirometer.** A spirometer can be used to measure changes in lung volume. A colorimeter measures intensity of colour and a potometer measures rate of water uptake. A manometer measures pressure changes.
5. **D. μm (micrometres).** The average plant cell is between 10 and 100 μm in size.
6. **C. nm (nanometres).** Viruses vary substantially in size, but small viruses are around 20-100 nm. Even the very large viruses only stretch to 250 nm.
7. **A. In the headings of each table column.** This is concise and makes the table easy to read, preserving crucial information. OCR prefers that units of measurement should be in the column heading of a table.
8. **A. Quantitative.** Quantitative data contains measurement and numbered values.
9. **C. 1.6 m/s.** To calculate the gradient of a line, you divide the units moved along the y axis by the units moved along the x axis – in this case, 8/5 or 1.6. The distance is measured in metres and time is measured in seconds. The gradient is referred to in metres per second.
10. **A. 25.** The mean can be estimated by adding up all the values in a set of data and dividing by the number of values. 10 and 20 are even and 29 lie either side of the median (middle value).
11. **C. 137.** When counting significant figures, count from the first non-zero digit. In this case, the first non-zero digit is 1, so count as far as the last non-zero figure, and no further.
12. **D. Directly after the name of each variable, in brackets.**
13. **C. Precise but not accurate.** Precision is a measure of how closely clustered the data points are. Accuracy is a measurement of how close they are to the actual value.
14. **C. Random errors are minimised by repeating an experiment, while systematic errors may be flaws in your equipment, or problems with the experimental design. Systematic errors are not minimised by repeating the experiment, because they are built into the structure of the experiment.**

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 2 (Cell Structure)

- D. The resolution is limited by the wavelength of light waves.** When you get closer together than half the wavelength of light (400–700 nm), light waves interfere and the image will look fuzzy.
- B. To highlight specific cell structures and make them more visible.** For example, eosin stains lipid-rich areas, while iodine stains cell walls, vacuoles and starch granules.
- C. 400×.** To calculate the magnification, divide the image size by the actual size. Remember to convert micrometres into millimetres. There is a small amount of inaccuracy in the measurement.
- D. Mitochondria.** Mitochondria are approximately 1 µm in length, and have folds called cristae, which can be seen as lines on the electron micrograph.
- A. Centrioles.** The centriole is made of protein microtubules, and produces spindle fibres. The others are membrane-bound organelles.
- A. Engulfing damaged organelles and foreign matter.** The lysosome uses hydrolytic enzymes to break down bonds and destroy harmful material such as pathogens and viruses, as well as damaged organelles.
- C. Golgi apparatus.** The RER and SER are involved in moving proteins and lipids. Mitochondria carry out respiration and produce ATP.
- B. They have a more developed cytoskeleton than eukaryotic cells.** In fact, prokaryotes have a more developed cytoskeleton. However, they do pass on genetic material in the form of a single circular DNA molecule, while eukaryotes transmit their genes as RNA.

Topic 3 (Biological Molecules)

- D. A slightly positive hydrogen is attracted to a slightly negative oxygen in water.** Hydrogen and oxygen in the same molecule are attached by covalent bonds, but the difference in electronegativity means that the oxygen has a slightly negative charge, while the hydrogen has a slightly positive charge. This creates a dipole moment, which is a separation of charge. A hydrogen bond is formed between two neighbouring polar molecules. The slightly positive hydrogen of one molecule has a slightly positive charge due to the shape of the molecule, while the oxygen pole has a slight negative charge.
- C. Cohesion.** This property means that, due to hydrogen bonds forming between water molecules, they tend to stick together. This creates surface tension, which means that light insects can walk on water without it 'breaking'.
- B. Polysaccharide.** A monomer sugar is also known as a monosaccharide – 'mono' means 'one' and 'poly' means 'many'. A polypeptide is made up from many amino acids, joined by peptide bonds.
- A. α-glucose molecules joined by 1–4 and 1–6 glycosidic bonds.** The 1–4 glycosidic bonds are common, while the rarer 1–6 glycosidic bonds create the branches in the molecule.
- D. Cellulose is straight and forms many hydrogen bonds between fibres, maintaining cell wall structure.** Individual hydrogen bonds are weak, but the large number of them between cellulose molecules, and this gives the fibres a high tensile strength. There are also branched polysaccharides like glycogen and starch, which cells tend to use for energy storage.
- A. Three fatty acids joined to a glycerol molecule.** A triglyceride is a different type of lipid joined to a sugar polymer; the triglyceride is found in the cell membrane.
- C. A carboxyl (COOH) group.** The carboxyl group loses its OH group when joining with another amino acid.
- C. Peptide bonds.** Peptide bonds combine amino acids into polypeptides, which are long chains of amino acids. Some proteins are globular, which means they have a specific shape. Glycosidic bonds join two monosaccharide (sugar) molecules. Hydrogen bonds join lipids.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



9. **D. Quaternary structure.** The primary structure of a polypeptide is its amino acid sequence. The secondary structure is the shape that amino acid chain makes, due to interactions between amino acids (usually a helix or a flat sheet). The tertiary structure is how that chain is folded into a three-dimensional shape, and the quaternary structure is made when multiple polypeptides are combined to form a larger protein.
10. **B. 8,000.** There are twenty different amino acids used in proteins. Each of the 20 amino acids can be followed by any of the amino acids, so the possible number of sequences is $20^3 = 8,000$.
11. **A. Globular.** These proteins are roughly spherical in shape, although the shape is highly specific to each enzyme. Other enzymes are found in membranes, but they are not globular.
12. **C. B is saturated and A is unsaturated.** Unsaturated fatty acids have at least one double bond in their hydrocarbon chain, causing a kink in their molecular shape. Saturated fatty acids have only single bonds in their hydrocarbon chain, and are straight.
13. **C. HCO_3^- .** It is important to note that the 3 is subscript (near the bottom of the number of oxygen units in the ion, while the - is superscript (near the top of the number) and indicates the charge of the molecule.
14. **A. Formation of a cloudy white liquid.** This is caused by lipids coming out of solution and forming droplets. B) describes the result of the iodine test in the presence of starch, while C) describes the result of Benedict's test in the presence of a reducing sugar.
15. **B. A strong acid, such as hydrochloric acid.** The sample needs to be heated to break down the acid – this breaks down glycosidic bonds and converts the non-reducing disaccharides into monosaccharides which can then donate hydrogen ions (i.e. is reducing).
16. **B. The distance the solute travels, divided by the distance the solvent travels.** This is the formula for the Rf value, which allows scientists to identify different compounds present in a mixture. Rf is calculated by measuring the absolute distance that the solute and solvent have travelled, and then dividing the solute distance by the solvent distance. The solvent always travels further up the plate than the solute, and so Rf is always between 0 and 1.



Topic 4 (Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids)

1. **D. Guanine.** Cytosine, thymine and uracil are all cyclic pyrimidine bases, while adenine and guanine are purine bases. Guanine is made up of two joined carbon-nitrogen rings.
2. **D. An adenine base, a pentose sugar and three inorganic phosphate groups.** – 'adenosine' is a combination of adenine and ribose, a five-carbon or pentose sugar. The three phosphate groups are attached to the 5' carbon of the ribose.
3. **A. Hydrogen bonds.** Two bonds form between adenine and thymine, and three bonds form between cytosine and guanine, creating the 'rungs' of the double helix molecule.
4. **C. UAACGUC.** The mRNA sequence has bases which are complementary to the DNA template strand. However, mRNA has the base uracil instead of thymine.
5. **C. Universal, degenerate.** Universal means that the DNA code is shared by all organisms. Degenerate means that several different triplets may code for the same amino acid. This is due to the fact that the sequence AGCTAC (for example) can be read as GCT CTA TAC. Each base is only used once, and the ribosome 'moves along' the mRNA.
6. **B. A polymerase enzyme joins RNA nucleotides to join to complementary DNA template strands.** This is the process of transcription. mRNA can then leave the nucleus and enter the ribosomes. Answers A.) and C.) describe stages in translation, the process of protein synthesis.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 5 (Enzymes and Reactions)

1. **B. It breaks down hydrogen peroxide to form water and oxygen.** This stops from building up in body cells. Amylase breaks down amylose into maltose, proteins into smaller peptides. Red blood cells are not degraded by one species are involved in the process.
2. **B. 3.** The stomach is acidic and therefore has a low pH, usually between 1.5 and 2. Active in the stomach are ones which can work effectively in these conditions.
3. **C. Induced fit model.** The lock and key model suggests that enzymes have a specific shape, and are activated by a specific substrate 'key' which fits perfectly into the model is confirmed by this theory – it recognises that the substrate can change shape.
4. **A. Four times faster.** A temperature coefficient of Q_{10} means that for each 10°C increase in temperature, the reaction rate doubles. For an enzyme, this is only true up to an optimum temperature; above that temperature, the enzyme molecules begin to denature.
5. **B. Non-competitive inhibitor.** The inhibitor is called non-competitive because it blocks the substrate for access to the enzyme's active site, and its effect on the enzyme decreases as the substrate is present.
6. **D. A non-protein component, such as an ion, which is required for an enzyme to function.** If the component is a large organic molecule, it is referred to instead as a co-enzyme. If the protein, it is called a prosthetic group.

Topic 6 (Membranes in Cells)

1. **B. A phospholipid bilayer with extrinsic proteins.** A phospholipid bilayer consists of molecules with hydrophilic phosphate 'heads' that are hydrophilic to the cytoplasm / tissue fluid, and hydrophobic tails that face inwards into the bilayer. Extrinsic proteins are useful cross-membrane channels, as it is too small and hydrophobic, and would not be able to transport molecules dissolved in water.
2. **A. To recognise other cells and form tissues.** Cells can use glycoproteins and join together with them, creating a tissue. These molecules also recognise the body's own cells.
3. **A. Too large and/or too hydrophilic to cross the membrane.** Hydrophilic molecules cannot cross the membrane and are repelled by the hydrophobic tails inside the membrane bilayer. Large molecules cannot pass between the fatty acids.
4. **B. Increase the proportion of unsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane.** Unsaturated fatty acids have 'kinks' in their hydrocarbon chain; this makes the molecules irregularly shaped and they cannot pack together so closely. Increasing the amount of water in the cell would not affect the membrane.
5. **C. Glycoprotein.** Cell membrane glycoproteins consist of an extrinsic protein and a carbohydrate chain which sticks out into the cytoplasm. Glycolipids are also found in the membrane, but they are made up from a phospholipid joined to a sugar, which is embedded in the phospholipid bilayer and helps to stabilise it. An example of a fibrous protein found in the cytoplasm but not in the cell membrane.
6. **D. Exocytosis.** Exocytosis is the general process of moving large molecules out of the cell with cell membrane vesicles, releasing them by forming a vesicle. Endocytosis involves the cell engulfing material in the membrane and then bringing it into the cell packaged in a vesicle. Pinocytosis describes the use of this process to absorb liquids. Phagocytosis only describes the use of this process to absorb large particles.
7. **C. Cytolysed.** Water potential is 0 for pure water, and decreases as a solution becomes more concentrated with solutes. The cell would burst due to the rapid entry of water from the dilute solution. In an animal cell would become crenated (shriveled) in a highly concentrated solution. The other words relate to plant cells and how they interact with their cell wall.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 7 (Cell Division, Diversity and Orga

1. **A. To check that the DNA has not been damaged or incorrectly copied during** prevent cells from malfunctioning, and reduces the likelihood of tumours developing. The cell cycle checkpoint, but not during interphase – this happens in the middle of the cell cycle.
2. **D. Telophase.** The nucleus is separating into two nuclei, and the nuclear envelope is breaking down – however, the cell is yet to divide fully into two.
3. **B. Nuclear envelope.** The envelope usually keeps the genetic material separate from the cytoplasm. mRNA molecules can pass through nuclear pores.
4. **B. To increase genetic diversity.** Meiosis increases genetic diversity, but mitosis produces two daughter cells that have the same instructions if they are to work effectively.
5. **B. Mitosis creates diploid daughter cells, while meiosis creates haploid cells.** Meiosis (gametes) are then able to fuse during reproduction to make a diploid zygote. Meiosis is a process which creates four daughter cells and occurs at a specific point in the life cycle of an organism.
6. **C. Metaphase I.** At this stage, the homologous chromosomes pair up; they separate during Anaphase I.
7. **A. Sperm cell.** The enzymes of the acrosome digest part of the ovum's (egg cell) outer layer so the sperm can fertilise the egg. Neutrophils are white blood cells, and also contribute to the immune system by using their enzymes to break down pathogens they have engulfed.
8. **C. Chondrocyte, cartilage, trachea, respiratory.** Chondrocytes (remember, -cyte = cell) are found in cartilage tissue, which forms incomplete, horseshoe-shaped rings down the length of the trachea. The trachea is part of the respiratory system, along with the mouth, nasal cavity, other airways.
9. **B. A plant tissue which is found at the tip of shoots and roots, and can differentiate into different types of cell.** Apical meristem tissue is unspecialised, but the cells are able to differentiate into specialised tissues. They are found at the tips of shoots and roots, and can differentiate into different parts of the plant.



Topic 8 (Exchange Surfaces)

1. **B. 1.2 : 1.** The surface area can be calculated by working out the area of one face of the cube and multiplying by six for the six faces of the cube. The volume can be calculated by multiplying the side length by itself three times. Completing these calculations gives a volume of 150 : 125, or 1.2 : 1.
2. **C. Eight times.** The original volume is $n \times n \times n$ cm, or n^3 cm. If you double the side length, the new volume is $2n \times 2n \times 2n$ cm, or $8n^3$ cm.
3. **B. Sticky, to trap and neutralise pathogens.** The mucus in the trachea traps pathogens and prevents them reaching the gaseous exchange surface. This is not a function of an effective exchange surface.
4. **D. Goblet cells.** The ciliated epithelial cells then brush the mucus up the trachea and it is swallowed, so pathogens are destroyed by stomach acid. Chondrocytes are found in the trachea, while squamous epithelial cells are the main cells adapted for gas exchange between the trachea and the capillaries.
5. **D. Alveoli.** These 'air sacs' have a large surface area and allow mass transport of gases in and out of the body.
6. **A. They contract, pulling the ribcage downwards and inwards.** Meanwhile, the diaphragm relaxes and moves upwards, lung volume decreases, and air is pushed out of the lungs.
7. **C. Pulmonary ventilation rate ÷ breathing rate.** PVR is a measurement of total volume of air breathed in and out per time period. Dividing PVR by breathing rate = number of breaths per time period. Dividing PVR by breathing rate gives the tidal volume.
8. **D. Spiracles.** These allow gases to enter and leave the insect's body, but can also close to prevent drying out and prevent drowning.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 9 (Transport in Animals)

- D. A heart with four chambers.** This enables blood to be pumped to the lungs and the body simultaneously.
- B. Arteries have thick walls rich in elastic muscle, while veins have thinner walls.** Most arteries do not, the pulmonary artery carries deoxygenated blood, and blood flows in one direction throughout the body.
- C. Vena cava.** Deoxygenated blood from around the body enters the heart through the vena cava.
- A. Left ventricle.** The ventricles are the lower chambers of the heart. Remember the diagrams.
- A. Lymphatic system.** The lymphatic system only absorbs a small amount of fluid – the rest is returned to the blood.
- D. It conducts a wave of excitation which causes the ventricles to contract.** The wave of excitation that starts a heartbeat, making the atria contract. The signal then travels to the ventricles where there is a gap between atrial and ventricular contraction, to allow the ventricles to fill. The atrioventricular node is stimulated by the wave of excitation, and sends it to the Purkyne tissue, which conducts the wave of excitation to the base of the heart, causing it to contract from the base.
- D. Increase in aortic pressure.** The opening of the semi-lunar valve allows pressure in the ventricle to be pumped into the aorta.
- B. Ectopic heartbeat.** This term describes an occasional 'extra' heartbeat, and can be caused by stimulants – for some people, it is harmless. Bradycardia describes an abnormally slow rate, tachycardia describes an unusually fast rate. Fibrillation is a highly irregular heartbeat where the heart is contracting in an uncoordinated pattern.
- A. Chloride ions (Cl⁻).** They stop the change in osmotic pressure that would otherwise occur. The effect is known as the chloride shift.
- A. It makes oxygen more likely to disassociate from haemoglobin.** This means that in highly active tissues (i.e. in heavily active tissues), these tissues can access much-needed oxygen.

Topic 10 (Transport in Plants)

- A. To move CO₂ throughout the plant so it can be used in photosynthesis.** Plants take in CO₂ from the air for photosynthesis, and do not usually need to transport it for this purpose.
- C. Sieve tube element.** The plate is found at the end of the sieve tube element, and is a structure adjoined to it.
- D. It is an undifferentiated tissue, which can divide into xylem or phloem.** The meristematic stem cell that can differentiate into different tissues, like the vascular tissues of the plant.
- A. It is mostly made from dead cells with no end walls, to reduce resistance to flow.** The main xylem tissue is dead, the adjoining companion cells have many mitochondria and perform metabolic functions.
- D. Increasing the wind speed.** This causes humid air to blow away from the plant, increasing the vapour concentration gradient. Increasing the humidity would reduce transpiration. Reducing the temperature would also reduce transpiration. Water potential would be lower. Reducing the temperature would also reduce transpiration.
- D. Potometer.** This instrument measures uptake of water by roots, which shows the rate of transpiration. A sphygmomanometer measures blood pressure and a colorimeter measures the concentration of a solution while a spirometer measures changes in lung volume.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



7. **C. The apoplast pathway.** Because the water does not have to cross a cell membrane, it can move freely through the interstitial gaps between cellulose molecules. Molecules following this pathway move through the cytoplasm of adjacent cells, while molecules following the symplast pathway move through the cytoplasm and large, permanent vacuoles within the cells.
8. **C. Xerophyte.** This word refers specifically to a plant which is adapted to very dry conditions. A hydrophyte is adapted to living in water (plants such as water lilies fall into this category). A geophyte is another word for this course; however, a cryptophyte is a plant which spends a significant part of its life cycle dormant underground as a bulb, or rhizome, or tuber. A gametophyte is a plant which has a life cycle of a non-seeded plant like moss, where it has only one set of chromosomes.
9. **B. Flow of sugar and other organic molecules through the phloem caused by a pressure gradient.** The explanation relating to hydrostatic gradients is known as the mass-flow hypothesis. However, there are some unresolved pieces of conflicting evidence.

Topic 11 (Communicable Diseases)

1. **D. Plague-carrying flea.** The flea is a vector for the plague bacterium, but it does not directly cause the disease.
2. **C. A protozoist.** Malaria is caused by microorganisms from the genus *Plasmodium*. There are several different species – *Plasmodium falciparum* is the one responsible for most deaths.
3. **B. Vector.** A vector is an organism which spreads a pathogen without suffering from the disease. It suffers from an infection and may also pass it on to a host; in either case, the pathogen is spread.
4. **A. Blocks sieve tubes to slow the movement of pathogens.** Callose is also produced by the plant when the sieve tube is damaged. It blocks the sieve tube, reducing loss of sugar, but also preventing the movement of pathogens through the plant's transport system.
5. **B. Neutrophil.** Neutrophils contain enzymes called lysozymes – they are responsible for digesting pathogens that they don't digest and damage parts of their own cell. Plasma cells create antibodies. Helper cells are involved in activating other immune cells. Keratinocytes are a type of skin cell, not a primary immune cell.
6. **B. Molecules, usually antibodies, that bind to antigens and mark cells for phagocytosis.** These are a group of molecules which bind to both antigens and phagocytic cells, making them easier to destroy. They are usually antibodies, although they may also be blood plasma proteins.
7. **A. B-memory cells.** When a B-memory cell recognises its specific antigen, this triggers a response. It produces a large-scale immune response to the pathogen. T-helper cells are active. T-helper cells create and release antibodies, while T-killer cells destroy cells marked with antibodies.
8. **C. They cross-link, binding to two pathogens to immobilise them and encourage phagocytosis.** These are composed of three polypeptides, joined together via strong disulfide bridges. Agglutinin has three identical variable regions, while opsonin antibodies have two different regions, so they can bind to two different pathogens.
9. **A. Artificial, active.** The TB vaccine is artificial because the pathogen is inactivated. It is active because it stimulates the body to produce its own antibodies.
10. **D. Autoimmune disease.** This term refers to diseases which are caused by the body's immune system attacking its own cells. A systemic disease is one which affects multiple organs and tissues. A contagious disease can be spread by contact with other people.
11. **B. By vaccination.** If enough people that a pathogen can't transmit itself fast enough to overcome the immune response. Once a large proportion of the population is vaccinated, a pathogen can't infect enough people to even keep at a constant level in the population, and it will die out.
12. **D. A mutation that causes antibiotic resistance can occur, and will spread very quickly.** Antibiotic resistance is always a risk, but it is a massive advantage for bacteria. Resistant bacteria are commonplace. These resistant bacteria will multiply very quickly, and are a major problem for medicine.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 12 (Biodiversity)

1. **B. Stratified sampling.** The company are separating people out into demographic interviews to achieve a fixed number of responses from each group.
2. **C. Marking, releasing and recapturing individuals from a species to estimate the absence of other information,** the size of one population won't tell you anything about the species could dominate the landscape, or could be one of a diverse range of relative abundance. It could give you information about species diversity, and it could give you information about the relative abundance of a species.
3. **A. $x = 1 - \left[\sum \left(\frac{n}{N} \right)^2 \right]$.** The higher the value of x you get, the more diverse the ecosystem. σ is the standard deviation, and χ^2 is the equation for a chi-squared test. D.) is one of the estimation formulae for the mark-release-recapture method.
4. **C. 0.7** Index of Diversity is calculated by dividing n , the number of each of organism counted, and squaring each result. The squared results are added together and then divided by the total number of organisms squared to give a diversity value between 0 and 1, where higher values indicate more diversity.
5. **A. 0.0286.** A proportion is usually a percentage, or a figure between 0 and 1. Dividing the number of polymorphic loci (358) by the total number of loci (12,500) gives a proportion that describes how much genetic variation there is in this section of DNA.
6. **D. An agricultural environment dominated by one crop species.** These environments have low biodiversity, and in fact other species are actively removed because they compete with the crop.
7. **C. Berlin Zoological Garden.** *Ex situ* biodiversity involves the creation of an environment separated from the world outside. All of the other examples describe *in situ* biodiversity where the environment is preserved by regulations and strict restrictions on land use.
8. **D. To ensure fair access to the benefits of genetic resources, such as seed banks.**

Topic 13 (Classification and Evolution)

1. **A. Class, Order, Family, Genus.** An eastern gorilla, for example, is in the class Mammalia, the order Primates, the family Hominidae and the genus *Gorilla*.
2. **B. *Patella* is its generic name and *patulucida* is its specific name.** When combined they are referred to as a binomial name.
3. **A. Fungi.** Fungi are heterotrophs must absorb organic material, instead of building it themselves with chitin-like cell walls.
4. **B. Prokaryotae.** Eukaryotic cells have mostly linear DNA in the form of chromosomes.
5. **C. A classification system based on shared evolutionary history and relationships.** D describes taxonomy. D doesn't have a specific name, but it would be an example of a classification system.
6. **B. They let us see how the morphology of animals and plants gradually change over time.** Fossils are millions of years old, this doesn't necessarily suggest that evolution has been going on for millions of years. The fact that certain species have become extinct doesn't prove that new species have evolved. The reason that fossils support the theory of evolution is that we can trace the lineage of a species over time, and recognise how adaptations relate to changes in the animal's environment.
7. **B. Organisms with more similar DNA sequences within a group are more closely related.** Humans share roughly 98.8% of their coding DNA base pairs with chimpanzees.
8. **D. Discontinuous, intraspecific.** The variation is discontinuous because there are distinct groups and it's intraspecific because it is describing variation within a species.
9. **C. 6.72.** The correct equation for standard deviation is $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$ where x is each individual value, \bar{x} is the mean, and n is the total number of values.
10. **A. Standard deviation.** A chi-squared test is a measure of how much your results differ from what you would expect. Spearman's rank correlation is a measure of how closely correlated two variables are. Standard deviation is a measure of how spread out a group of data is.
11. **C. Convergent Evolution.** Marsupial and placental moles share a distant ancestor but are more similar because they have adapted to fit a similar ecological niche – subterranean life.
12. **A. Organisms pass environmental variation on to their offspring via meiosis.** Genetic variation is passed on to offspring, but environmental variation is not.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Section Two: Multiple-Choice Questions

Topic 1 (Practical Skills)

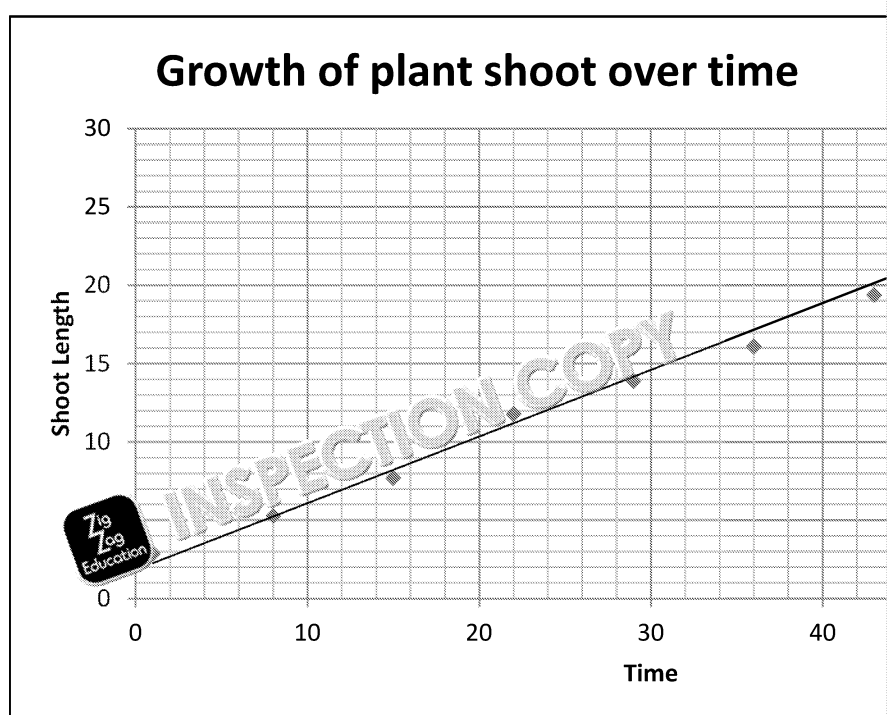
- 1) Students measure the rate at which Benedict's reagent turns from blue to brick red with different sugar molecules (at 80 °C). Later, the students repeat the experiment at different temperatures, to find out whether the reagent will be effective at lower temperatures. Identify the independent variables in each reaction.
- A. Benedict's reagent, rate of reaction
 - B. Benedict's reagent, temperature
 - C. Type of sugar molecule, temperature
 - D. Type of sugar molecule, rate of reaction
- 2) Identify one dependent variable from the experiments above.
- A. Benedict's reagent
 - B. Temperature
 - C. Type of sugar molecule
 - D. Rate of reaction
- 3) Identify a control variable in both experiments above.
- A. Quantity of Benedict's reagent
 - B. Temperature in room
 - C. Type of sugar molecule
 - D. Rate of reaction
- 4) Which technique would be appropriate for separating and identifying a mixture of amino acids within a mixture?
- A. Thin-layer chromatography
 - B. Colorimetry
 - C. Serial dilution
 - D. Spirometry
- 5) Which unit would be most appropriate for measuring the average height of a human?
- A. Picometres
 - B. Micrometres
 - C. Nanometres
 - D. Millimetres
- 6) Convert 15,000,000 micrograms to kilograms.
- A. 1,500,000 kg
 - B. 15,000 kg
 - C. 1,500 kg
 - D. 1.5 kg

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 7) Which of these definitions describes a modal average?
- The middle value of a set of data in numerical order
 - The result obtained by adding up a set of values and dividing by the number of values
 - The most common value in a set of data
 - A single figure which describes how spread out a data set is
- 8) Which of these numbers is shown to three significant figures?
- 140.5
 - 0.005
 - 1,606
 - 9.07



- 9) The graph above shows a sapling plant growing over time. Calculate the rate of growth of the plant in mm/h.
- 0.43
 - 0.51
 - 2.13
 - 2.38
- 10) The sapling plant size is measured in millimetres, and time is measured in hours. The units for shoot length and time have not been included in the graph. Where should the units for shoot length be included?
- In the title of the graph
 - In the text describing the graph
 - Directly after *Shoot Length*, in brackets
 - At the end of the y axis

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



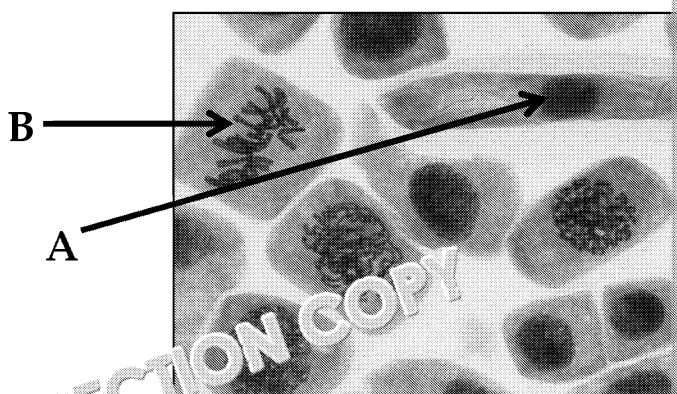
- 11) A scale gives multiple readings that individually can be as much as 5% averaged to provide a more correct reading. How would you describe
- A. Precise but not accurate
 - B. Accurate but not precise
 - C. Neither precise nor accurate
 - D. Both accurate and precise
- 12) A measurement of 17.5 g is made on a scale with a precision of 0.1 g. What is the error on this measurement?
- A. $\pm 0.1\%$
 - B. $\pm 0.57\%$
 - C. $\pm 0.75\%$
 - D. $\pm 1.75\%$
- 13) Which type of error may arise from a problem with equipment or experimenter? It can be minimised by repeating the experiment?
- A. Random error
 - B. Calculation error
 - C. Systematic error
 - D. Anomalous error

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 2 (Cell Structure)

- 1) Which of these can be seen under a light microscope?
 - A. Chloroplast
 - B. Ribosome
 - C. Golgi apparatus
 - D. Haemoglobin protein
- 2) Why can live cells not be viewed under a scanning electron microscope?
 - A. The electron beam kills the cells by disrupting protein synthesis.
 - B. The specimen must be cooled to a very low temperature, to minimise movement of particles.
 - C. The specimen must be suspended in a highly alkaline solution, which kills the cells.
 - D. The specimen must be viewed in a vacuum, so that electrons are not scattered.
- 3) A light microscope's eyepiece lens has a magnification of $5\times$, while the objective lens has a magnification of $40\times$. What is the overall magnification achieved by the microscope?
 - A. $8\times$
 - B. $40\times$
 - C. $100\times$
 - D. $200\times$
- 4) Sudan Red dye specifically stains lipids, while eosin stains the cytoplasm. Which of the following procedures exemplifies the use of these dyes?
 - A. Microarray staining
 - B. Specialised staining
 - C. Differential staining
 - D. Immobilisation staining



- 5) Study the electron micrograph above. Which cell component is present in the Golgi apparatus?
 - A. Golgi apparatus
 - B. Nuclear envelope
 - C. Cell membrane
 - D. Mitochondria

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



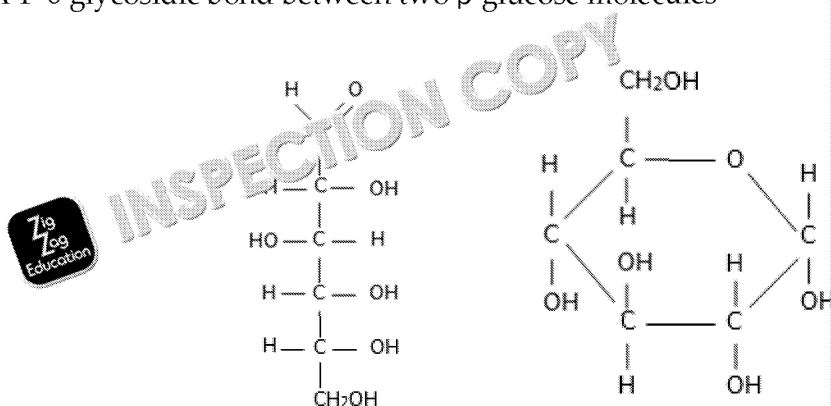
- 6) Students measure a photomicrograph image as 60 mm long. The magnification was the original object?
- 7.5 nm
 - 75 nm
 - 7.5 μm
 - 75 μm
- 7) Which component contains RNA molecules, and is found within another organelle?
- Golgi apparatus
 - Nucleolus
 - Nuclear envelope
 - Rough endoplasmic reticulum
- 8) Which two functions would you associate with the centrioles?
- Moving proteins around the cell and holding ribosomes in place
 - Moving sugars across the cell membrane and maintaining an electrochemical gradient
 - Moving lipids around the cell and synthesising steroid hormones
 - Moving chromosomes to either pole of the cell and forming cilia
- 9) Choose the sentence that describes the relationship between the Golgi apparatus and the rough endoplasmic reticulum.
- The Golgi apparatus creates vesicles to transport proteins to the rough endoplasmic reticulum, which modifies them.
 - The Rough ER creates vesicles to transport proteins to the Golgi apparatus, which modifies them.
 - The Golgi apparatus translates mRNA into protein, and the rough endoplasmic reticulum transports the completed protein around the cell.
 - The rough ER translates mRNA into protein, and the Golgi apparatus transports the completed protein around the cell.
- 10) Which sentence correctly describes a difference between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells?
- Eukaryotic cells have organelles while prokaryotic cells do not.
 - Prokaryotic cells have cell walls while eukaryotic cells do not.
 - Eukaryotic cells have a highly developed cytoskeleton, while prokaryotic cells do not.
 - Eukaryotic cells have circular DNA while prokaryotes have linear DNA.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 3 (Biological Molecules)

- Which property of water makes sweating a useful way to cool down?
 - High latent heat of vaporisation
 - High specific heat capacity
 - Cohesion
 - Capillarity
- Which result can be accomplished by a condensation reaction?
 - Breaking a dipeptide's glycosidic bond to produce two amino acids
 - Joining two amino acids with a glycosidic bond to form a dipeptide
 - Breaking a disaccharide's glycosidic bond to produce two monosaccharides
 - Joining two monosaccharides with a glycosidic bond to produce a disaccharide
- Which of these bonds joins together glucose molecules to make cellulose?
 - A 1–4 glycosidic bond between two α -glucose molecules
 - A 1–6 glycosidic bond between two α -glucose molecules
 - A 1–4 glycosidic bond between two β -glucose molecules
 - A 1–6 glycosidic bond between two β -glucose molecules



- Describe these molecules.
 - A pentose sugar (ribose) and a hexose sugar (glucose)
 - A pentose sugar (glucose) and a hexose sugar (fructose)
 - Two different forms of the hexose sugar glucose
 - Two different forms of the hexose sugar fructose
- Which of these statements is true about glycogen?
 - Glycogen forms long, thin fibres, which makes it good for building up energy stores
 - Glycogen forms tough, rigid fibres, which makes it an effective cytoskeleton
 - Glycogen is small and branched, which makes it a good short-term energy store
 - Glycogen is branched and compact, which makes it a good long-term energy store

INSPECTION COPY

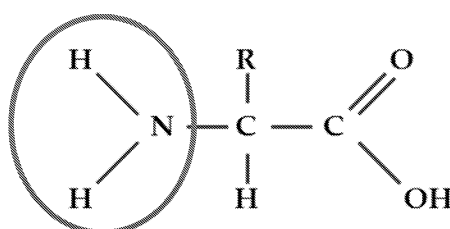
**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) Why are phospholipids effective building blocks for cell membranes?
- They are hydrophilic molecules, and therefore allow water to enter the cell.
 - They are good energy stores, and may be detached from the membrane and digested.
 - They absorb a great deal of heat energy and provide insulation for the cell, preventing it from becoming too hot or cold.
 - They have a hydrophilic head which faces the cytoplasm and a hydrophobic tail which faces inward, forming a bilayer.

- 7) Which 3-carbon molecule provides the backbone for triglycerides?

- Ethanol
- Glycerol
- Acetate
- Fatty acid



- 8) What is this part of an amino acid called?
- Nitrate group
 - Amine group
 - Carboxyl group
 - Radical group

- 9) The sequence of amino acids that makes up a protein is known as the primary structure.
- Primary structure
 - Secondary structure
 - Tertiary structure
 - Quaternary structure

- 10) _____ link cysteine amino acids together in a protein. _____ they are relatively strong and difficult to break.
- Hydrogen bonds
 - Disulfide bridges
 - Ionic bonds
 - Hydrophobic interactions

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 11) Which tissue would you expect to be rich in collagen?
- A. Cartilage
 - B. Hair
 - C. Adipose tissue
 - D. Blood
- 12) What is a prosthetic group?
- A. A strong, rigid structure formed from multiple interlocking peptides
 - B. A short peptide which is attached to a much larger protein
 - C. A small product of an enzyme-driven reaction
 - D. A non-protein compound which is attached to a protein and enables it to function
- 13) What is the formula of a phosphate ion?
- A. PO_4^{3+}
 - B. POH_4^{3+}
 - C. PO_4^{3-}
 - D. P_3O_4^-
- 14) Which result would indicate the presence of starch in an iodine test?
- A. Formation of a cloudy white liquid
 - B. Mixture turns from straw-yellow to deep blue
 - C. Mixture turns from bright blue to brick red
 - D. An iodine test is not test for the presence of starch
- 15) Which adaptation could you make to the Benedict's test to make it quantitative?
- A. Heat the sugar in a water bath at 80°C , in the presence of hydrochloric acid
 - B. Reduce the amount of Benedict's solution used, while adding sugar
 - C. Dissolve the sugar in an alcohol solvent, such as ethanol, and use a colorimeter
 - D. Place the reagent and solution into a colorimeter and shine light on it

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 4 (Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids)

- 1) Which of these molecules is a pyrimidine?
 - A. Adenine
 - B. Threonine
 - C. Cytosine
 - D. Guanine
- 2) Complete the sentence. – ATP is made by joining a ribose sugar to...
 - A. An adenine nucleotide and two phosphate groups
 - B. An adenine nucleotide and three phosphate groups
 - C. An adenine base and two phosphate groups
 - D. An adenine base and three phosphate groups
- 3) Identify one difference between DNA and RNA.
 - A. DNA is usually double-stranded, while RNA is usually single-stranded.
 - B. The sugar in DNA is deoxyribose, while the sugar in RNA is ribose.
 - C. DNA is typically a shorter molecule than RNA.
 - D. DNA contains the organic base uracil, while RNA does not.
- 4) What does it mean to say that DNA is antiparallel?
 - A. Adenine on the coding strand always pairs with thymine on the complementary strand, and cytosine always pairs with guanine.
 - B. DNA is replicated in the opposite direction to mRNA.
 - C. When DNA replicates, each daughter molecule is made out of one old and one new strand.
 - D. DNA strands have their 5', terminal phosphate group at opposite ends.
- 5) Which of the following components was a crucial part of the Meselson-Stahl experiment?
 - A. A heavy isotope of nitrogen, ^{15}N
 - B. A light isotope of oxygen, ^{15}O
 - C. A heavy isotope of carbon, ^{14}C
 - D. A light isotope of sulfur, ^{35}S
- 6) AGT and AGC both code for the amino acid serine. Which property of the genetic code does this illustrate?
 - A. Semi-conservative
 - B. Degenerate
 - C. Non-overlapping
 - D. Universal

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 7) In humans, the triplet code GGA codes for glycine. Which of these statements is correct?
- A. GGA does not code for glycine in bacteria because they have different genetic codes.
 - B. If GGA codes for glycine, this means that no other sequence codes for glycine.
 - C. The sequence GGAGGA in RNA could be read as coding for two glycines for the amino acids coded for by GAG and ACC.
 - D. A mutation causing a base substitution at the 5' CC could still code for glycine.

- 8) Josh is an AS Level student. In his exam paper, he writes this statement: 'DNA is replicated to form mRNA, which leaves the nucleus and is used to synthesise proteins at the ribosomes'.

What mistake has Josh made?

- A. Replication doesn't make mRNA; instead, transcription does.
- B. Replication doesn't make mRNA; instead, translation does.
- C. The process of reading mRNA and creating a protein occurs within the nucleus.
- D. The process of reading mRNA and creating a protein occurs at the ribosome.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 5 (Enzymes and Reactions)

- 1) Which amino acid interactions tend to be common in the centre of globular proteins?
 - A. Ionic
 - B. Hydrophobic
 - C. Covalent
 - D. Disulfide
- 2) Enzymes are described as having specificity. What does this mean?
 - A. Enzymes have a defined 3D shape which is not easily modified by temperature or pH.
 - B. Each enzyme has an exact amino acid sequence, which does not vary in a species.
 - C. Enzymes only function under a specific set of climatic conditions.
 - D. Each enzyme only catalyses one specific reaction, or a few similar reactions.
- 3) A digestive enzyme that is most active in the duodenum is likely to have an optimum pH of:
 - A. 2
 - B. 5
 - C. 8
 - D. 11
- 4) Which of the effects described below would *consistently* decrease the rate of an enzyme-controlled reaction?
 - A. Increasing the temperature
 - B. Reducing the pH
 - C. Introducing a non-competitive inhibitor
 - D. Increasing the substrate concentration
- 5) An enzyme-controlled reaction (in a test tube) has a temperature coefficient of 2. If the temperature is increased from 10 °C to make the reaction four times faster, what is the final temperature of the test tube?
 - A. 20 °C
 - B. 30 °C
 - C. 40 °C
 - D. 50 °C

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) In terms of enzyme-controlled reactions, what is a co-enzyme?
- A. An ion which joins to an enzyme to create the specific shape of its active site
 - B. An enzyme which is part of a several-stage process that breaks down into a smaller one
 - C. An organic molecule which is not part of an enzyme but is required for it to function
 - D. A chemical which binds to an enzyme and slows down its rate of reaction
- 7) Malonic acid is a structural isomer of succinate, the substrate of succinate dehydrogenase. Malonic acid binds to the active site of succinate dehydrogenase, preventing succinate from binding to the active site. Which term best describes this effect?
- A. Competitive inhibition
 - B. Non-competitive inhibition
 - C. Reversible inhibition
 - D. Non-reversible inhibition

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 6 (Membranes in Cells)

- 1) Choose a function which is *not* carried out by the cell membrane.
 - A. Producing spindle fibres which line chromosomes up along the cell
 - B. Receiving hormone signals via receptor molecules, and triggering
 - C. Controlling which molecules enter and exit the cell
 - D. Allowing the immune system to recognise the body's own cells
- 2) Which structure that phospholipids form is essential to cell membranes?
 - A. Globular protein
 - B. Micelle
 - C. Bilayer
 - D. Helix
- 3) Which of these changes could a membrane make to decrease its permeability?
 - A. Reduce the number of intrinsic proteins in the membrane
 - B. Increase the number of unsaturated fatty acids in the membrane
 - C. Reduce the number of glycoproteins on the outer surface of the membrane
 - D. Increase the number of saturated fatty acids in the membrane
- 4) Which change would *reduce* the rate of diffusion across a membrane?
 - A. Increase the temperature
 - B. Reduce the concentration gradient
 - C. Increase the surface area
 - D. Reduce the diffusion distance
- 5) Identify the correct definition of active transport.
 - A. Movement down a concentration gradient across a membrane
 - B. Movement against a concentration gradient which requires energy
 - C. Movement down a concentration gradient with the aid of proteins
 - D. Movement across a membrane with the aid of an inorganic ion
- 6) Which word describes an animal cell which has shrivelled, due to a high concentration of solutes outside the cell?
 - A. Crenated
 - B. Turgid
 - C. Cytolysed
 - D. Inactive

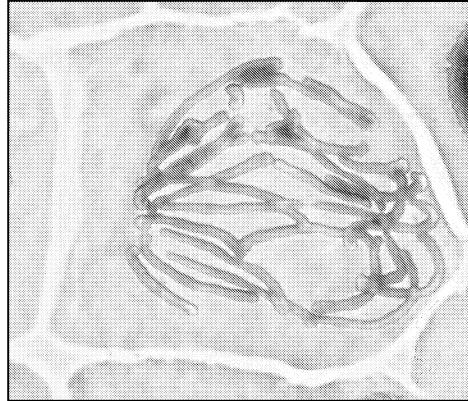
INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 7 (Cell Division, Diversity and Orga

- 1) Which event does *not* occur during interphase?
- A. The cell grows in size and carries out normal metabolic functions.
 - B. Chromosomes line up across the equator of the cell.
 - C. Checkpoints assess any damage to DNA and can 'pause' the cell cycle.
 - D. DNA is replicated with the aid of DNA Polymerase.



- 2) Which stage of mitosis is shown in the picture/diagram above?
- A. Prophase
 - B. Metaphase
 - C. Anaphase
 - D. Telophase
- 3) Which of the events below causes genetic variation during mitosis?
- A. Crossing over of homologous chromosomes
 - B. Random mutation
 - C. Independent assortment
 - D. Random fertilisation
- 4) During which stage of meiosis do the nuclear envelopes reform around the chromosomes?
- A. Anaphase I
 - B. Anaphase II
 - C. Telophase I
 - D. Telophase II
- 5) Some human cells possess a specialised organelle called a flagellum. Which of the following is correct?
- A. It enables red blood cells to divide in two without a nucleus.
 - B. It acts like a lasso, allowing neutrophils to trap pathogens.
 - C. It extends from gut epithelial cells and aids with peristalsis.
 - D. It acts as a tail, enabling sperm cells to swim towards the ovum.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) Why do guard cells have inner and outer walls with different thickness?
- A. The thicker, outer wall traps moist air and reduces water loss from the leaf.
 - B. The thicker, inner wall stays rigid while the outer wall bends, opening the stomata.
 - C. The thicker, outer wall traps airborne pathogens, preventing them from entering the leaf.
 - D. The thicker, inner wall prevents the cell from bursting when air pressure is high.
- 7) Suggest one way in which the vascular meristem is different from both xylem and phloem.
- A. The meristem consists of living cells, while xylem and phloem are dead.
 - B. The meristem has no lignin in its cell walls, while xylem and phloem have lignin, making the tissue stronger.
 - C. The meristem consists of cells separated by complete cell membranes, while xylem and phloem form multi-cell columns.
 - D. The meristem has few organelles, while the xylem and phloem have many organelles.
- 8) Choose the method used by stem cell researchers to treat diabetes in mice.
- A. Allowing the cells to grow around a bioscaffold, and develop a new pancreas.
 - B. Programming stem cells to use excess fats, reducing obesity and pancreatitis.
 - C. Triggering the cells to produce insulin, which can be injected into the mice.
 - D. Programming the cells to differentiate into pancreatic β -cells, which produce insulin.



**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 8 (Exchange Surfaces)

- 1) A cuboid has sides measuring $7\text{ cm} \times 3\text{ cm} \times 2\text{ cm}$. What is its surface area to volume ratio?
- A. 0.51: 1
 - B. 0.98: 1
 - C. 1.02: 1
 - D. 1.95: 1
- 2) If each of the cuboid's sides was doubled in length, how much would its surface area to volume ratio change?
- A. 2 times
 - B. 6 times
 - C. 8 times
 - D. 15 times
- 3) Put these lung components in the correct order, from largest to smallest.
- A. Trachea, alveoli, bronchi, bronchioles
 - B. Trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, alveoli
 - C. Bronchi, bronchioles, trachea, alveoli
 - D. Alveoli, bronchioles, bronchi, trachea
- 4) Which sentence describes the role of the external intercostal muscles in breathing?
- A. They contract, pulling the ribcage up, in and outwards
 - B. They relax, pushing the ribcage upwards and outwards
 - C. They contract, pulling the ribcage downwards and inwards
 - D. They relax, pushing the ribcage downwards and inwards
- 5) Callum is a young athlete. Immediately after exercise, he has a tidal volume of 500 cm^3 and a breathing rate of 35 breaths per minute. What is his pulmonary ventilation?
- A. $31.5\text{ dm}^3\text{ min}^{-2}$
 - B. $38.9\text{ dm}^3\text{ min}^{-2}$
 - C. $31.5\text{ dm}^3\text{ min}^{-1}$
 - D. $38.9\text{ dm}^3\text{ min}^{-1}$
- 6) In fish, which thin structures stick out and allow water to flow across a large area for gaseous exchange?
- A. Gill filaments
 - B. Spiracles
 - C. Opercula
 - D. Gill arches
- 7) Why is counter-current flow of water and blood important for fish?
- A. It maintains an oxygen concentration gradient between the water and blood.
 - B. It ensures that oxygenated water meets the most deoxygenated blood.
 - C. It puts the capillaries under pressure, making them more permeable.
 - D. It causes the capillaries to become flattened, moving red blood cells faster.

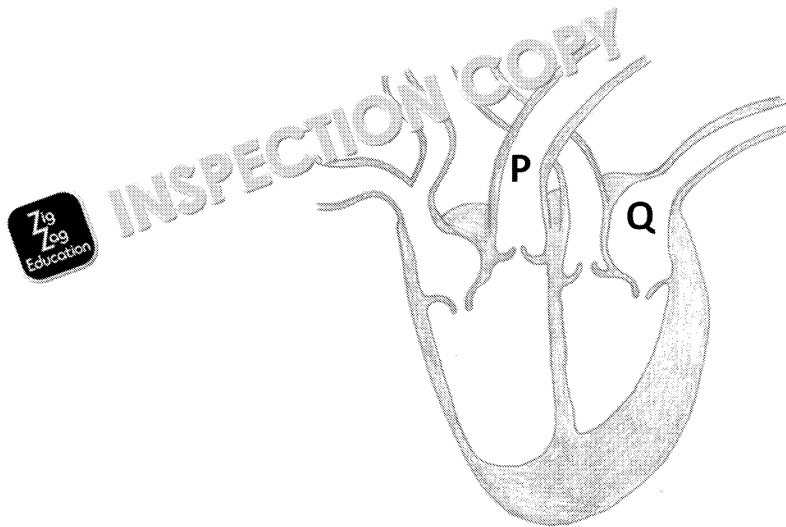
INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 9 (Transport in Animals)

- 1) Describe the system which has blood separated from the tissue fluid by
 - A. Single circulatory system
 - B. Double circulatory system
 - C. Open circulatory system
 - D. Closed circulatory system
- 2) Which of these features is specific to capillaries?
 - A. Thick collagen layer, to withstand high pressure
 - B. Permeable walls which allow blood plasma to leak out
 - C. Valves to prevent blood from flowing backwards
 - D. Occasional nodes which contain white blood cells
- 3) Which component would you not find in tissue fluid?
 - A. White blood cells
 - B. Glucose
 - C. Platelets
 - D. Carbon dioxide



- 4) Name the blood vessel labelled as P.
 - A. Aorta
 - B. Pulmonary artery
 - C. Vena cava
 - D. Pulmonary vein
- 5) On the diagram, name the component labelled as Q.
 - A. Left atrium
 - B. Left ventricle
 - C. Right atrium
 - D. Right ventricle

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) Which process below occurs during diastole in the cardiac cycle?
- The semilunar valves open.
 - The atrioventricular valve closes.
 - The atria and ventricles slowly fill with blood.
 - Blood is forced out of the ventricles, into the blood vessels.
- 7) Which part of the heart does an artificial pacemaker mimic?
- Bundle of His
 - Sinoatrial node
 - Atrioventricular node
 - Purkyne tissue



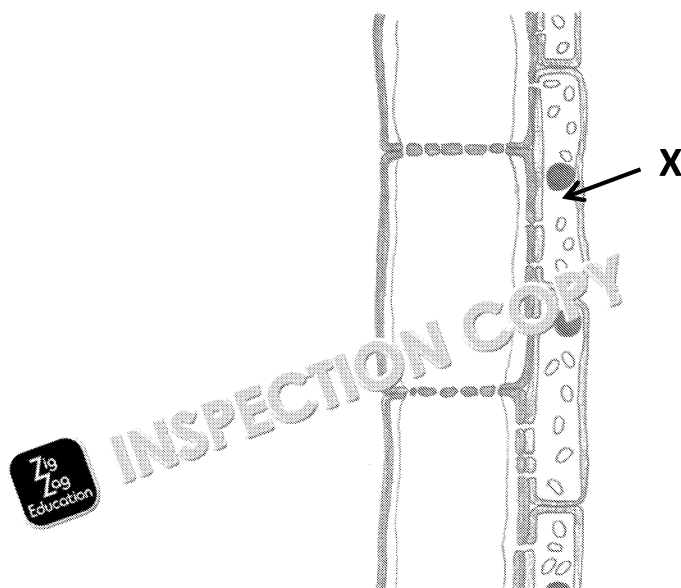
- 8) The electrocardiogram output above shows a normal rhythm with a heart rate of approximately 100 bpm. Which condition does this patient have?
- Ectopic heartbeat
 - Arrhythmia
 - Bradycardia
 - Tachycardia
- 9) Choose the true statement from the list below.
- Fetal haemoglobin associates with O_2 at lower concentrations of O_2 than adult haemoglobin does.
 - Adult haemoglobin associates with O_2 at lower concentrations of O_2 than fetal haemoglobin does.
 - Fetal haemoglobin does not respond to changes in CO_2 concentration, whereas adult haemoglobin does.
 - Adult haemoglobin does not respond to changes in CO_2 concentration, whereas fetal haemoglobin does.
- 10) Why is it important that haemoglobin associates with H^+ ions from hydrochloric acid in the blood?
- This changes the shape of haemoglobin, allowing it to carry more oxygen molecules.
 - This forms a protective layer around haemoglobin's oxygen association sites.
 - Haemoglobin can carry additional oxygen molecules when it is associated with H^+ ions.
 - This prevents the blood from becoming too acidic, which can cause damage to cells.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 10 (Transport in Plants)

- 1) Which of the items below is an unusual feature of xylem tissue?
- A. The cells are separated by sieve plates, with pores to allow transport.
 - B. Most of the cells are dead, and have no membranes or end walls.
 - C. The cells contain many mitochondria to allow rapid respiration.
 - D. The cells have a large surface area, to maximise uptake of water.
- 2) If water flows into a root via the cytoplasm of the root hair cells, which of the following is the most likely pathway?
- A. The apoplast pathway
 - B. The transcellular pathway
 - C. The symplast pathway
 - D. The vacuolar pathway



- 3) What name is given to the unit marked as X?
- A. Phloem tube cell
 - B. Sieve end plate
 - C. Sieve tube element
 - D. Companion cell
- 4) Choose the correct definition for transpiration.
- A. The process by which sugars are transported around the plant, from the leaves to the rest of the plant.
 - B. The process by which CO_2 is transported around the plant so it can be used in photosynthesis.
 - C. The process by which the plant converts glucose into other essential molecules.
 - D. The process by which water moves up through the stem of a plant to the leaves.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 5) How could a potometer be used to assess the rate of transpiration of a leafy shoot?
- A. Collection and condensation of water vapour evaporated from leafy shoot
 - B. Cutting a ring of xylem tissue, and collecting the water which leaks from the damaged xylem
 - C. Measuring the distance travelled by an air bubble created in the potometer
 - D. A potometer doesn't measure transpiration but it measures translocation
- 6) Which of these adaptations would be useful for a hydrophyte?
- A. Large air spaces to improve buoyancy
 - B. Small leaves to reduce transpiration rate
 - C. Rolled leaves to trap moist air
 - D. Fast-growing tendrils to cling to a host plant
- 7) Which force moves sugars from sources towards sinks in a plant, according to the pressure flow hypothesis?
- A. Cohesion
 - B. Adhesion
 - C. Hydrostatic pressure
 - D. Osmotic pressure



INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 11 (Communicable Diseases)

- 1) Which bacterial disease causes rings of discoloration and a change of temperature?
 - A. Rinderpest
 - B. Black Sigatoka
 - C. Ringworm
 - D. Ring rot
- 2) Which polysaccharide is deposited in sieve tubes to slow the movement of phloem?
 - A. Cellulose
 - B. Tylose
 - C. Lignin
 - D. Cellulose
- 3) Describe the role of the protein fibrin in primary defence.
 - A. It stimulates platelets to begin the process of clotting.
 - B. It converts thrombokinase to prothrombin, which agglutinates and clots blood.
 - C. It forms fibres around the wound, and aids clotting.
 - D. It agglutinates around the wound, and aids clotting.
- 4) What is histamine?
 - A. A small signalling protein that encourages the clonal expansion of T-helper cells.
 - B. A type of antibody that binds to antigens and marks cells for phagocytosis.
 - C. A chemical messenger that triggers B cells to phagocytise pathogens.
 - D. A nitrogenous compound that causes swelling around the primary site of infection.
- 5) Which cells produce large numbers of antibodies, and so provide a powerful defence against reinfection?
 - A. Macrophages
 - B. T-helper cells
 - C. Plasma cells
 - D. T-killer cells
- 6) What is the main role of a T-helper cell?
 - A. Engulfs and digests pathogens using hydrolytic enzymes
 - B. Produces cytokines that encourage B cells to develop and differentiate
 - C. Engulfs pathogens and presents their antigens to other immune cells
 - D. Damages lymphatic vessels and produces clotting agents

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 7) Choose the sentence which best describes the structure of an antibody.
- A. A Y-shaped protein, with polypeptides held together by hydrogen bonds.
 - B. A Y-shaped protein, with polypeptides held together by disulfide bonds.
 - C. An X-shaped protein, with polypeptides held together by disulfide bonds.
 - D. An X-shaped protein, with polypeptides held together by hydrogen bonds.
- 8) A baby receives temporary protection from a disease, due to antibodies. Which kind of immunity does this provide?
- A. Artificial, active
 - B. Artificial, passive
 - C. Natural, active
 - D. Natural, passive
- 9) Which sentence describing epidemics is correct?
- A. They mostly involve pathogens which are stable and mutate slowly.
 - B. They are referred to as endemics if they occur globally.
 - C. They are often fought by immunising the people most at risk from them.
 - D. They can be permanently prevented by achieving herd immunity.



**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 12 (Biodiversity)

- 1) A group of Geography students stands in a town square, asking the people who will complete their survey. Which kind of sampling is this?
- A. Opportunistic sampling
 - B. Stratified sampling
 - C. Systematic sampling
 - D. Random sampling
- 2) A quadrat has sides of 50 cm. A class of students uses a random number generator to co-ordinate their quadrats and place 20 quadrats. What area of land is studied in total?
- A. 2.5 m²
 - B. 5 m²
 - C. 10 m²
 - D. 500 m²
- 3) Which sentence describes the difference between species evenness and species richness?
- A. Species richness describes the number of species present, while species evenness shows how abundant each species is.
 - B. Species evenness describes the number of species present, while species richness shows how abundant each species is.
 - C. Species richness is a measure of biodiversity, while species evenness is a measure of genetic diversity.
 - D. Species evenness is a measure of biodiversity, while species richness is a measure of genetic diversity.

Western Hemlock	10
Sitka Spruce	25
Alder	3
Red Cedar	7
Yellow Cedar	1
White Spruce	4

- 4) Use these values to calculate an Index of Diversity for a tree sample from Alaska (to 2 dp).
- A. Needs more information
 - B. 0.32
 - C. 0.68
 - D. 3.22

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 5) An area of subtropical forest in central Africa has an Index of Diversity of 1.2. Suggest which sentence is likely to be true.
- The forest has one dominant tree species which crowds out competitors.
 - A small change to the environment is likely to have catastrophic effects.
 - A forest species chosen at random has a high genetic diversity.
 - The ecosystem is resilient to the introduction of predators or new plant species.
- 6) A short section of chromosome 1 is studied for a human population. It is found that the proportion of polymorphic loci is 1.2%. How many polymorphic genes are there?
- Not enough information
 - 13
 - 130
 - 1,300
- 7) Which of these is not an effect of climate change over the last century?
- Gradual migration of many species towards the equator
 - Increased extinction probability for rare species
 - Reduced crop yields as soils become less suitable
 - A substantial increase in temperature at the poles
- 8) In 1930s America, a drought weakened intensively farmed land, and caused the Dust Bowl – which in turn caused mass migration. Which effect is most likely to have been caused by the drought?
- Eutrophication
 - Soil erosion
 - Mass extinction
 - Monoculture
- 9) Which of these is an example of *in situ* conservation?
- The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew
 - The Hortobágy National Park in Hungary
 - Edinburgh Zoo
 - The Global Seed Vault in Svalbard

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



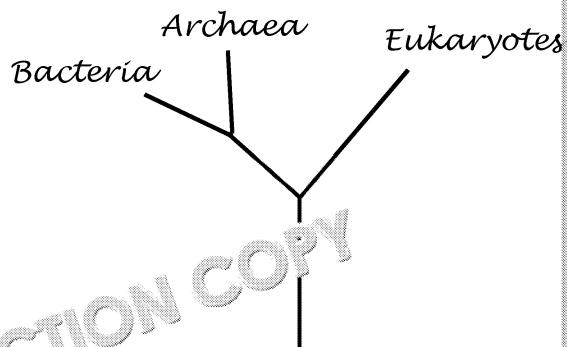
Topic 13 (Classification and Evolution)

- 1) Which of these lists is in the correct order – from the largest taxon to the smallest?
- A. Order, genus, family, species
 - B. Order, class, family, genus
 - C. Class, phylum, family, species
 - D. Phylum, class, order, family
- 2) *Vanessa tameamea* is a butterfly which lives only in Hawaii. Which statement is true?
- A. *Vanessa* is its binomial name and *tameamea* is its specific name.
 - B. *Vanessa* is its specific name and *tameamea* is its binomial name.
 - C. *Vanessa* is its specific name and *tameamea* is its generic name.
 - D. *Vanessa* is its generic name and *tameamea* is its specific name.
- 3) An organism grows long filaments called hyphae. Which kingdom does it belong to?
- A. Plantae
 - B. Animalia
 - C. Protocista
 - D. Fungi
- 4) An organism has a cell wall made of cellulose and pectin. Which kingdom does it belong to?
- A. Plantae
 - B. Animalia
 - C. Protocista
 - D. Fungi
- 5) An organism is a multicellular heterotroph which is capable of movement. Which kingdom does it belong to?
- A. Plantae
 - B. Animalia
 - C. Protocista
 - D. Fungi

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





- 6) A scientist draws this diagram to show the evolutionary relationship between Bacteria, Archaea and Eukaryotes. Why is this wrong?
- Bacteria are more closely related to eukaryotes than they are to archaea.
 - Archaea are more closely related to eukaryotes than they are to bacteria.
 - Fungi are missing from the evolutionary tree.
 - Protoctista are missing from the evolutionary tree.
- 7) Which of the list below would *not* be useful evidence when building a phylogenetic tree?
- Gene sequencing for two captured individuals (one from each species).
 - Analysing differences in behaviour between species.
 - Measuring body size for two captured individuals (one from each species).
 - Analysing differences in skeletal structure between species.
- 8) Which of the following is *not* evidence, according to the Darwinian theory of evolution?
- Bacteria passing on antibiotic resistance by sharing plasmid DNA.
 - A white wolf passing on genes for white fur colour to its offspring.
 - Fossils showing that over time, entire classes of animals such as dinosaurs become extinct.
 - A horse developing an unusual bone shape due to a fracture, and passing this on to its offspring.
- 9) Humans can either have O, A or B alleles for blood type, producing distinct AB blood types. Which kind of variation is this an example of?
- Continuous, intraspecific.
 - Continuous, interspecific.
 - Discontinuous, intraspecific.
 - Discontinuous, interspecific.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Weight (kg)	
3.5	2.7
3.4	3.6
2.9	4.5
2.4	3.2
4.0	2.9
3.9	3.3

s =

- 10) Calculate the standard deviation of this set of baby weight data, from a sample of 12 babies. The standard deviation should be given to 3 decimal places.
- A. 0.358
B. 0.369
C. 0.582
D. 0.608
- 11) How many babies are more than one standard deviation from the mean?
- A. 3
B. 4
C. 8
D. 9
- 12) Numbats and anteaters are not closely related, but they have both developed elongated tongues, to help them dig through nests and catch insects. This is an example of
- A. Convergent evolution
B. Ecological radiation
C. Adaptive radiation
D. Divergent evolution
- 13) How does natural selection affect the frequency of alleles in a population?
- A. It always acts to reduce the genetic diversity of a population.
B. It causes advantageous alleles to become fixed, while others die out.
C. It causes new mutations, increasing the genetic diversity of the population.
D. Natural selection doesn't change the frequency of alleles.
- 14) Bacterial antibiotic resistance can become widespread very quickly. What is the main reason for the fast spread of resistance?
- A. Bacteria divide very quickly under optimal conditions.
B. Bacteria can share DNA via circular plasmids.
C. Bacteria share vesicles of proteins which allow them to degrade antibiotics.
D. A gene for resistance provides a huge advantage, and is strongly selected for.

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Answers to Multiple-Choice Questions

Topic 1

1	C
2	D
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	D
7	C
8	D
9	A
10	C
11	B
12	B
13	C

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

Topic 2

1	A
2	D
3	D
4	C
5	B
6	D
7	B
8	D
9	B
10	C

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

1
2
3
4
5
6

Topic 3

1	A
2	D
3	C
4	C
5	D
6	D
7	B
8	P
9	C
10	B
11	A
12	D
13	C
14	B
15	D

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Topic 8

1	D
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	A



Topic 9

1	D
2	B
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	D

Topic 10

1	P
2	C
3	D
4	D
5	C
6	A
7	C

Topic 11

1	D
2	A
3	C
4	D
5	C
6	B
7	B
8	D
9	C



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14

INSPECTION COPY

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**

