AS 12 ECOLOGY

### **ANSWERS & MARK SCHEMES**

## **QUESTIONSHEET 1**

(a) (i) increased artificial fixation/conversion of N<sub>2</sub> to NH<sub>3</sub>/Haber process/production of artificial nitrogenous fertilisers; increased use of manure from intensive stock farming;

increased leaching of nitrates;

increased mineralisation/release of NO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O by ploughing/burning;

4

(ii) increased use of fossil fuels;

increased release of nitrogen oxides into atmosphere;

increased acid rain/nitric/nitrous acid;

3

(b) (i) conversion of ammonium/NH<sub>4</sub> into nitrate/NO<sub>2</sub> into nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) ions;

credit correct genus e.g. Nitrosomonas  $NH_4^+ \rightarrow NO_2^-$ ;

Nitrobacter  $NO_2 \rightarrow NO_3$ ;

3

(ii) excess enrichment of water by nutrients/nitrates/phosphates;

which leach into waterways/effluent release;

cause algal blooms;

which restrict light supply/increase turbidity;

thus algae die and decay by aerobic bacterial action;

ref increased BOD/biochemical oxygen demand

thus O<sub>2</sub> deprivation results in animals dying also;

max 4

**TOTAL 14** 

### **QUESTIONSHEET 2**

(a) crush/grind/ measure known number/mass of walnut leaves;use water; (reject alcohol since this would inhibit germination)

filter;

add 1cm3 extract to 9cm3 (distilled) water;

4

(b) same number of seeds/seeds from same packet/batch/same spacing of seeds; same volume of extract used/measure germination in each tray at same time;

same temperature;

include control with only water/no walnut extract;

max 2

(c) percentage/number of seeds germinating over stated time period;

1

(d) germination = emergence of radicle;

measured time for each percentage of seeds to germinate;

2

(e) reduces competition since inhibits growth of other plants; for water/nutrients;

juglone may stimulate growth of black walnut seedlings;

ref walnut trees are 'aggresive' plants;

max 2

TOTAL 11

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## **QUESTIONSHEET 3**

(a) (i) enzymes work faster at higher temperatures; dark reaction/light independent stage is temperature dependent/enzyme controlled/may be limited by low temperature;2 (ii) CO<sub>2</sub> is a greenhouse gas/absorbs radiation/prevents heat/radiation loss to space; thus atmosphere warms as CO<sub>2</sub> concentration rises; 3 positive feedback causes increased temperature which causes increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration; (b) respiration rate increased at higher temperatures producing more CO<sub>2</sub>; since it is an enzyme controlled process; as ocean temperature rises CO<sub>2</sub> solubility decreases/ enters air; 3 (c) methane/any nitrogen oxide/carbon monoxide/water vapour/CFCs; 1 TOTAL 9 **QUESTIONSHEET 4** (a) size/area of box represents quantity of biomass/energy at each level; decrease because energy is lost between each level; as heat (respiration)/faeces/not all organisms at preceding level being eaten; 3 (b) respiration; 1 (c) rabbit dies/eaten by predator and digested/lost as urea in urine by normal body protein turnover; decomposition of body/predator faeces/predator urine; extracellular digestion by decomposition/ref saprophytic action; protein  $NH_4^+ \rightarrow NO_2^- \rightarrow NO_3^-$ ; nitrate absorbed by grass (plant)/root hairs; incorporated into chlorophyll/porphyrin ring/of chlorophyll; max 4 TOTAL 8 **QUESTIONSHEET 5** (a) as sugar content increases, percentage taken increases/earthworms appear to prefer leaves with higher sugar content; prefer ash most/beech least; prefer ash to sycamore even though they have the same sugar content; max 2 (b) Any five of: macerate leaves/use of pestle and mortar/obtain leaf extract in solution/ to leaf solution add equal volume of Benedicts' Reagent/ heat to 70-80°C/ red/yellow precipitate indicates reducing sugar/ relative concentration of sugar determined visually by spectrophotometry/ credit non-reducing sugar test/glucose oxidase test/use of glucose biosensor;;;; 5 (c) Any two of: equal number of discs of each species/ discs equal size/ discs equal spacing/ 2 bin kept covered/in dark;;

TOTAL 10

1

(d) nitrogen/tannin content/roughness/texture/colour/presence of polyphenol/chlorophyll/of cuticle;

(Credit any sensible suggestion.)

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# **QUESTIONSHEET 6**

(a) conversion of atmospheric/gaseous nitrogen to ammonia/N₂→NH₃; ammonia can be used by the plant/bacteria to synthesise amino acids/protein;

2

(b) all protect the enzyme/nitrogenase from oxygen/high oxygen concentrations; oxygen is a competitive inhibitor of nitrogenase; nitrogenase reduces the nitrogen molecule into ammonia;

max 2

- (c) (i) may give plant extra survival value/faster growth/reproductive rate; outcompeting other plants in the environment; which may not survive/become extinct; fundamentally changing the community in a disadvantageous way/l
  - fundamentally changing the community in a disadvantageous way/leading to a loss of insects/insect food plants/breaking food chains/loss of biodiversity;

    3
  - (ii) dentrification occurs in anaerobic/waterlogged conditions;
     ploughing/draining reduces this/aerates soil;
     Thiobacillus/Pseudomanas denitrificans are anaerobic organisms;

max 2

TOTAL 9

## **QUESTIONSHEET 7**

(a) energy flow/food dependency/feeding;

1

- (b) (i) beetles/caterpillars/aphids/woodlice/millipedes/fly larvae/woodmouse/grey squirrel/slugs/earthworms (any three);
  - (ii) woodpecker;

1

1

(c) box area represents numbers;

number of organisms decreases from lower trophic levels to higher;

due to energy loss at each level;

due to respiration/excretion/deforestation/not all organisms eaten;

fewer organisms can be supported in next level;

accept higher organisms tend to be larger;

max 4

TOTAL 7

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### **QUESTIONSHEET 8**

(a) (i) annual production = 30,000 + 59,000 + 31,000 = 120,000 tonnes;  $120,000 \times 20 = 2,400,000 \text{ tonnes};$ 2 (ii) in 20 years each hectare will absorb 120 tonnes; (accept reasonable figures from graph)  $\frac{2,400,000}{120}$  = 20,000 hectares; area needed = 2 (b) warming of atmosphere/global warming; due to accumulation of carbon dioxide/methane/nitrogen oxides/water vapour; 3 which trap/slow release of long wave radiation/retain heat energy in atmosphere; (c) (i) light independent reaction/CO<sub>2</sub> fixation is enzyme controlled; enzymes work faster at higher temperatures; 2 (ii) respiration accelerated since enzyme controlled; thus greater use of repiratory substrates/less storage; stomata may be closed more due to transpiration stress; thus less CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and less photosynthesis; max 3 **TOTAL 12 QUESTIONSHEET 9** competition between different species for food/nesting sites/display sites; (a) (i) e.g. (three species of) woodpeckers compete with each other for nest sites/treecreeper, blackcaps, woodpeckers compete for insects; 2 (ii) describes habitat and role of species; 2 e.g. sparrowhawk lives in large woods where it is a top carnivore; (Credit any other correct example) (b) some bird species require glades/open areas/dead wood; these reduce timber production; 2 (c) increases diversity of other types of organism/non-tree species; 2 different trees provide microhabitats attracting a wider variety of insects/birds;

**TOTAL 8** 

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## **QUESTIONSHEET 10**

(a) succession; 1 (b) (i) Any one of: sunken stomata/thickened epidermis/extensive root system/reduced leaf area/rolled leaves; 1 (ii) Any one of: aerenchyma/tissues with large number of air spaces/floating leaves with stomata on upper surface/leaves in water currents finely divided/hydrophobic surfaces/surface hairs to trap air; 1 (c) dead plant material/humus/organic matter accumulates; site dries/soil rises above water level; conditions become less favourable/unfavourable for hydrophytes/more favourable for mesophytes; reference to colonisation by herbaceous plants, shrubs, trees; reference to correct/qualified change in conditions/light regime/water availabilty; max 3 TOTAL 6 **QUESTIONSHEET 11** (a) first species to colonise/can colonise bare ground; usually lichens/algae; have adaptations to survive in extreme conditions; can initiate a plant succession; max 3 (b) indicates complexity/stability/allows comparisons of different ecosystems/communities; 1 (c) trees/conifers may shade other species; acidify soils/reduce water/salt availability; max 2 TOTAL 6 **QUESTIONSHEET 12** the particular environment in which an organism lives; (a) (i) with characteristic climatic and edaphic conditions; and a characteristic community of living organisms; 3 several populations which interact together in a habitat; through flow of energy via trophic levels and recycling of nutrients; over a particular time; 3 (iii) a group of individuals belonging to the same species; in the same area/same community; 3 at the same time; (b) select similar lawns/areas of the same lawn; mown at different frequencies/once, twice, three times a month or similar; sample using quadrats; 1 metre<sup>2</sup> size; generate random numbers to set up random coordinates (to place quadrats); count number of plantains in each quadrat; at least five quadrats per area; work out population density/number of plantains per square metre; repeat sampling every week for about three months; standard procedure adopted about counting plantains touching sides of quadrats; max 6