

GCSE Biology A (Gateway)

J247/04 Biology A B4-B6 and B7 (Higher Tier)

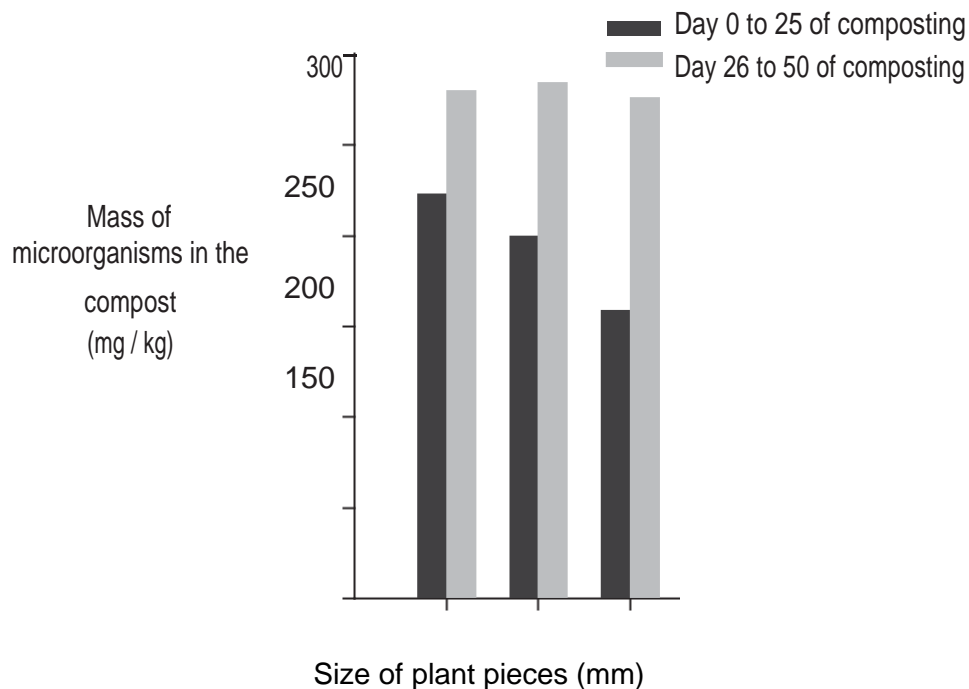
Question Set: 12

- 1 This machine helps shred plants for a compost heap.



The machine can shred plants into three different sizes.

This graph is in the instruction booklet for the machine.



- (a) Which size of plant pieces is best for making compost? Explain your answer.

< 3 mm because it encourages more microbes from day 0-25 therefore there is more rapid decay so more compost. [3]

- (b) The size of the plant pieces has an effect on the number of microorganisms in the compost.

Suggest why.

Small pieces means there will be a larger surface area of dead plants. Therefore decomposers will be able to respire faster. [2]

- (c) The decomposition of dead plants and animals is an important process for ecosystems.

Explain why.

It ~~is~~ returns minerals like carbon^{and nitrogen} back to the environment.
This makes it easier for protein production in plants.

[3]

Total Marks for Question Set 12: 8

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