

Edexcel (B) Biology A-level

10.3 - Changes in ecosystems

Flashcards

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What is meant by primary succession?



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Where an area previously devoid of life is colonised by a community of organisms.



Summarise the process of primary succession.



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- Pioneer species, able to survive harsh conditions, colonise the area.
- They die, decompose, and add nutrients to the ground.
- Over time, this allows more complex organisms to survive.



What is the climax community and how is it reached?



What is the climax community and how is it reached?

The final stage of succession, where the ecosystem is balanced and stable. It is reached when the soil is rich enough to support large trees or shrubs, and the environment is no longer changing.



What is meant by plagioclinox?



What is meant by plagioclimax?

Where human intervention prevents the expected climax community from forming. This may be done in the interests of conservation.



Define biotic factors and give an example.



Define biotic factors and give an example.

Living features of an ecosystem e.g.
predators, disease.



How can biotic factors affect population size?



How can biotic factors affect population size?

- Predator / prey populations oscillate.
- Disease reduces population size.
- Availability of mates can either increase or reduce population size.



Define abiotic factors and give an example.



Define abiotic factors and give an example.

Non-living features of an ecosystem e.g.
light, temperature.



How can abiotic factors affect population size?



How can abiotic factors affect population size?

- Light affects circadian rhythms, influences plant growth.
- Temperature affects enzyme activity.
- Adverse weather conditions require certain adaptations.
- Availability of water and oxygen.



What is meant by intraspecific and interspecific competition?



What is meant by intraspecific and interspecific competition?

Intraspecific = competition between organisms of the same species.

Interspecific = competition between organisms of different species.

