

Definitions and Concepts for WJEC (Wales) Biology GCSE

Topic 2.1: Classification and Biodiversity

*Definitions in **bold** are for higher tier only*

*Definitions marked by '**' are for separate sciences only*

Alien species - A species that is introduced into an area (where it wouldn't usually be found) in order to control specific pests or pathogens.

Bacteria - A type of pathogen which is single-celled and prokaryotic (note: not all bacteria are pathogenic).

Behavioural adaptations - Adaptations in an organism's behaviour to increase its chance of survival.

Biodiversity - The variety and number of different species in an area. †

Capture-recapture - **A method of estimating population size. Organisms are captured, marked and then released back into the community. Time is allowed for them to redistribute and another sample is collected. The ratio of marked to unmarked species in the second sample is determined - this is assumed to be proportional to the ratio of marked to unmarked in the entire population.**

Classification - Grouping of organisms which is usually based on similarities in physical features.

Competition - When different organisms compete for the same resources (e.g. food, shelter and mates) in an ecosystem. It limits population size.

Conservation - The preservation and careful management of the environment or natural resources.

Disease - An illness that affects animal or plant health.

Ecosystem - The community of organisms (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) components of an area and their interactions.

Ecosystem diversity - The variety of different ecosystems in an area.

Ecotourism - Tourism that is driven towards natural environments to benefit local conservation schemes.

Endangered species - A species that is at risk from completely dying out.

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