



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Accredited

**GCSE (9–1) Biology B (Twenty First Century Science)**  
**J257/01 Breadth in biology (Foundation Tier)**  
 Sample Question Paper

**F****Date – Morning/Afternoon**

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

**You may use:**

- a scientific or graphical calculator



First name

Last name

Centre  
numberCandidate  
number**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Additional paper may be used if required but you must clearly show your candidate number, centre number and question number(s).
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **90**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- This document consists of **28** pages.

Answer **all** the questions.

1 (a) In humans, sex is determined by chromosomes.

Write down the combination of sex chromosomes in the body cells of females and males.

Females..... Males.....

**[1]**

(b) (i) In alligators, sex is determined by the temperature at which the fertilised eggs are incubated.

The data below shows the effect of temperature on sex determination.

Temperature (°C)	Number of females	Percentage of females (%)	Number of males	Percentage of males (%)
30	0	0	15	100
31	7	46.7	8	53.3
32	9		6	
33	15	100	0	0

Calculate the percentage of alligators that hatched as males and females when incubated at 32°C.

Females.....% Males.....% **[2]**

(ii) What can be concluded about the effect of temperature on sex determination in alligators?

.....

.....

.....

..... **[2]**

- (c) (i) Alligators eat fish, birds, turtles and snakes.

These foods are high in protein.

Put a tick (✓) in the box that describes what proteins are made of.

Amino acids

Fatty acids

Glycerol

Sugars

[1]

- (ii) Describe a test that could be used to show if these foods contain protein.

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

- (d) (i) Alligators are unable to control their own internal temperature and rely on external sources of heat to regulate their body temperature.

They are most active at 33°C.

Put in a tick (✓) in the box that best explains why.

There will be more collisions between enzymes and substrates so reactions will happen faster.

The enzymes will be denatured so reactions will slow down.

There will be fewer collisions between enzymes and substrates so the reactions will happen slower.

There will be no collisions between enzymes and substrates so no reactions will happen.

[1]

(ii) Humans are able to control their internal temperature.

Describe how the skin looks when the temperature drops.

.....  
.....  
..... [2]

(iii) Humans need to be able to maintain a constant environment within their bodies, within very narrow limits.

What is this called?

..... [1]

SPECIMEN

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**Turn over for the next question**

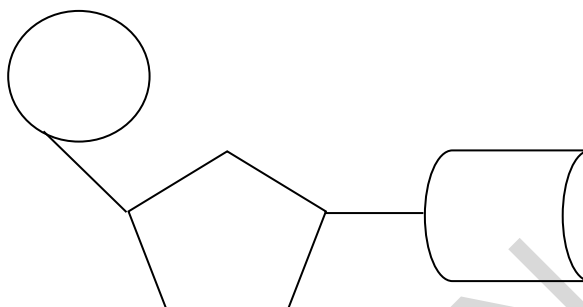
SPECIMEN

2 (a) (i) DNA is a polymer made of nucleotides.

Each nucleotide is made of three parts:

- A phosphate group
- A base
- A sugar.

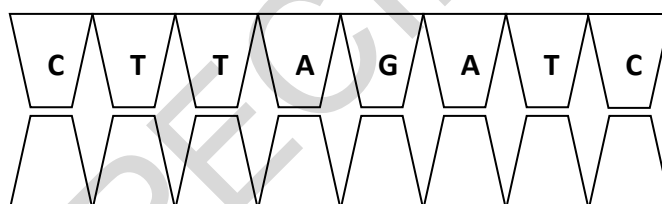
Draw a line and label the phosphate group on the nucleotide below.



[1]

(ii) DNA has four different bases. A, T, C and G.

Use these four bases to complete the base sequence of the complementary strand of DNA.



Complementary strand

[1]

(b) The diagram below shows how genetic material is organised.

Choose a word from the list to label each structure.

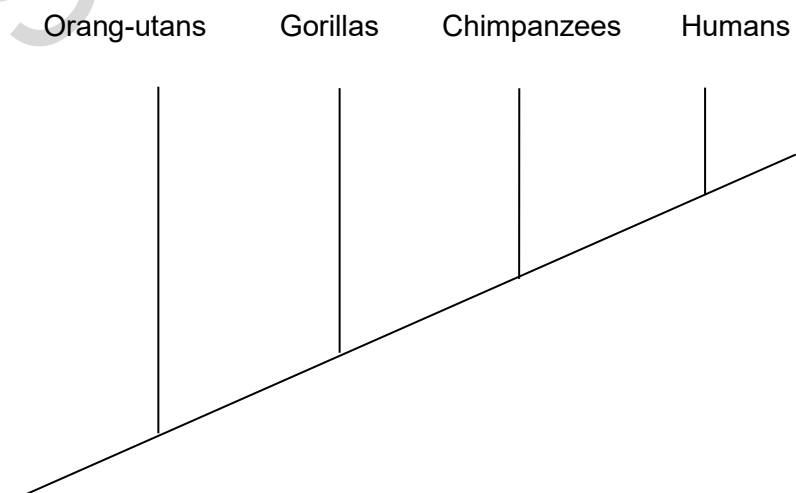
Write the correct word next to the structure on the diagram.

- gene**      **chromosome**      **DNA**      **base pair**      **cell**      **nucleus**



(c) (i) DNA has been used to help classify organisms. The more DNA we have in common with another species, the more closely related we are to them. [3]

This relationship can be shown in a diagram.



Which species are humans most closely related to?

..... [1]

- (ii) Scientists think chimpanzees are intelligent animals.

Which part of the brain is associated with intelligence?

Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

Brain stem	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cerebral cortex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cerebellum	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hypothalamus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

[1]

- (d) (i) The nervous system consists of billions of neurons.

The speed an electrical impulse can travel down a neuron can differ.

Neuron	Length (m)	Time taken for impulse to travel (s)	Speed (m/s)
A	1.3	0.027	48.15
B	1.3	0.014	
C	0.8	0.022	

Calculate the speed of the electrical impulse travelling down neuron B and neuron C.

Neuron B speed.....m/s

Neuron C speed.....m/s

[2]



(ii) One of these neurons has a fatty substance wrapped around its axon.

Which neuron, **A**, **B** or **C**, has a fatty substance wrapped around its axon?

Use data from the table in (d)(i) to justify your choice.

.....  
..... [2]

(e) In a reflex arc the components of the nervous system work together. The order of these components is important.

The sequence is described below but the events are in the wrong order.

Place them in the correct order using the numbers.

The first one has been done for you.

1. A sensory neuron sends an impulse to a relay neuron.
2. An effector produces a response
3. A receptor detects a stimulus.
4. A motor neuron sends an impulse to an effector.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

[2]

3 John grows tomatoes in his greenhouse.



(a) (i) John needs to water his tomato plants regularly.

The water will be moved through the plant by the xylem.

Which sentence best explains how the xylem is adapted to its function?

Put **one** tick (✓) in the correct box.

Companion cells contain mitochondria to release energy.

Perforated plates allow movement between cells.

Cells are joined end to end with no connecting cell walls.

Cells are joined end to end and contain cytoplasm.

[1]

- (ii) It is a lovely summer's day in John's greenhouse.

Various factors affect the rate of photosynthesis:

- light intensity
- temperature
- carbon dioxide concentration

Which **one** of the factors above is likely to limit the rate of photosynthesis of John's tomato plants?

Explain your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

- (b) (i) One morning John notices the leaves of his plant look different.

The tomato plant has a disease called blight.



Suggest the impact this may have on the plant.

.....

.....

[1]

- (ii) Pesticides can be used to try to kill plant diseases such as blight on tomato plants.

State **one** way that a plant can naturally defend itself against pathogens.

.....  
 .....

[1]

- (c) Fill in the gaps in the paragraph below with the best term from the list.

**resistant**                      **genes**                      **selective breeding**                      **immune**  
**natural selection**                      **chromosomes**                      **offspring**

A wheat breeder notices that some of his wheat plants do not die when attacked by a fungus.

These plants are ..... to the fungus. He uses these plants to breed from and

selects from their ..... to breed the next generation. This is an example of

.....

[3]

- (d) (i) Some human diseases are not caused by microorganisms, they are inherited. Cystic fibrosis is an example of a disease that is inherited. It is caused by a recessive allele.

Cystic Fibrosis alleles    F = dominant    f = recessive

Which of the following genotypes would result in the person being affected by cystic fibrosis?

Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

FF

Ff

fF

ff

[1]

- (ii) Two parents have a genotype Ff.

Work out the probability of them having a child with cystic fibrosis.

		Mother	
		F	f
Father	F		
	f		

Probability .....

[2]

SPECIMEN

- 4 A group of students are conducting an experiment on *Daphnia* (water fleas) to investigate the effect of temperature on living things.



*Daphnia* are very small organisms. The students viewed the *Daphnia* using a light microscope. It is possible to observe the heart of the *Daphnia* beating while observing it using the microscope. The group place the *Daphnia* in water set at different temperatures to see the effect on the heart rate of the *Daphnia*.

Their results are shown below.

Temperature (°C)	Heart rate of the <i>Daphnia</i> (beats per minute)				
	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Mean
17	25	22	25	24	24
20	27	27	25	25	26
23	30	30	30	34	31
25	33	57	36	39	36

- (a) What conclusion can the students draw about their experiment?

.....  
 ..... [1]

- (b) The students used a Bunsen burner to maintain the temperature the *Daphnia* were kept in. Explain why this is not a good method and suggest an improvement.

.....  
 .....  
 ..... [2]

- (c) *Daphnia* are living organisms.

What might be an ethical concern with this experiment?

..... [1]

- (d) The students could see the *Daphnia*'s heart beating. In humans the heart forms part of the circulatory system.

What role does the heart play in these systems?

..... [1]

- (e) Which organ is responsible for maintaining the water balance of the blood?

Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

Heart

Kidneys

Lungs

Skin

[1]

- (f) The skin contains stem cells. Stem cells are unspecialised cells.

How does this make them useful to scientists?

.....  
.....  
..... [2]

(g) Cells contain mitochondria.

What is the function of the mitochondria in the cell?

Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

Controls entry and exit of substances into the cell

Is responsible for photosynthesis

Makes ATP

Stores the genetic information

[1]

(h) Mitochondria contain enzymes.

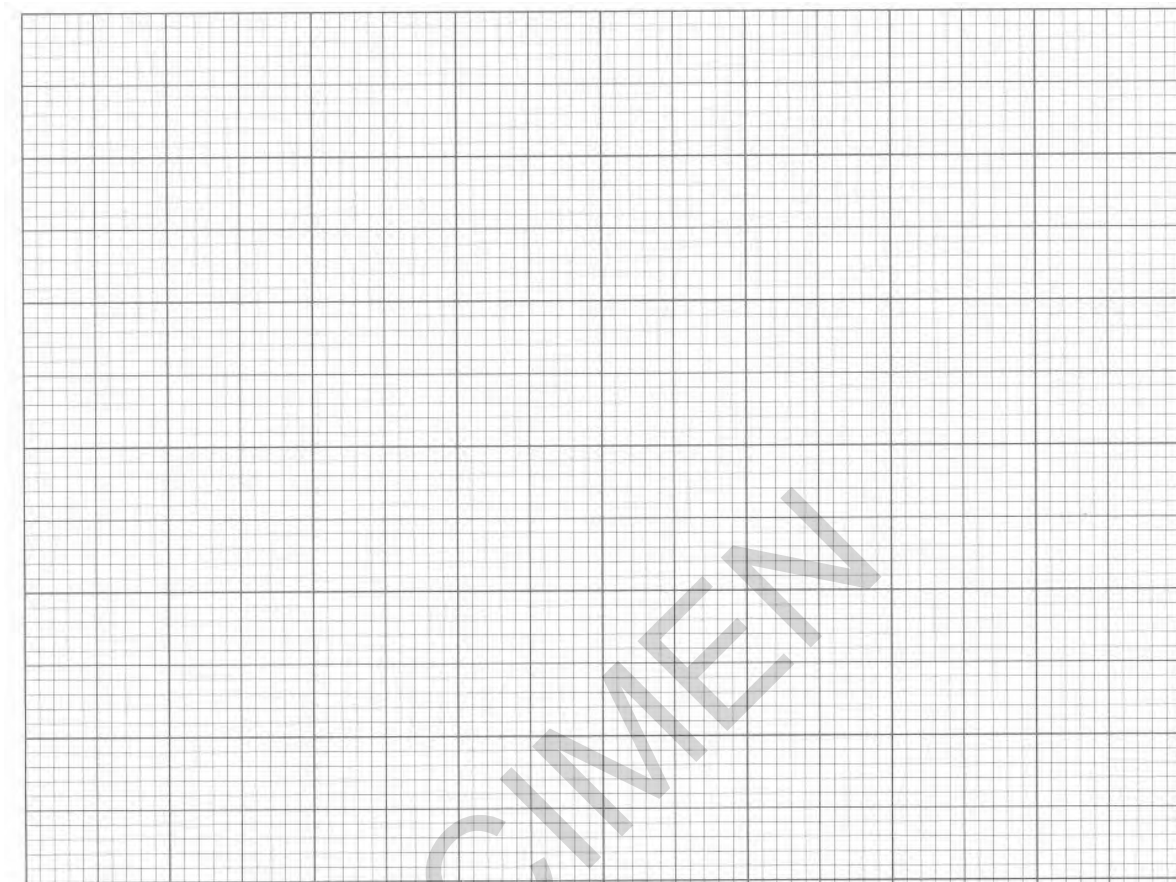
A student investigates the effect of temperature on the rate of a reaction involving an enzyme in the mitochondria.

Their results are shown below.

Temperature (°C)	Rate of reaction (arbitrary units)
0	0
20	10
30	20
40	40
50	10
60	0



- (i) Plot the data given in the table on the grid below. [3]



- (ii) Use the points to draw a curve through all the plots. [1]

- (iii) Use the graph to determine the rate of the reaction at 10°C.

Rate of reaction .....arbitrary units [1]

- (iv) The student does not think that the data gives an accurate measurement for the optimum temperature.

Suggest further investigation that the student could do to increase the accuracy of the data.

.....

..... [1]

- 5 (a) (i) HIV is an infection which causes a weakened immune system.

State **two** ways of passing HIV from one person to another.

1 .....

2 .....

[2]

- (ii) People with HIV are at risk from opportunistic infections.

These infections take advantage of a weakened immune system.

The most threatening infections occur when the person has a CD4 count less than 200.

4 individuals with HIV had their CD4 count measured.

Individual	CD4 count
1	500
2	210
3	160
4	175

Place the individuals in order of those with the greatest risk of contracting an opportunistic infection.

.....  
 most risk ..... least risk

[1]

- (b) Tuberculosis is an example of an opportunistic infection.

The BCG vaccination was given to all UK children between the ages of 10 and 14 until 2005.

In 2005, this routine immunisation was stopped.

Why would the government stop vaccinating a population?

.....

..... [1]

(c) When bacteria enter the body, they multiply. The body launches an immune response.

What is the name given to the proteins produced by the body to attack the multiplying bacteria?

Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

Antibodies

Antigens

Antibiotics

Enzymes

[1]

(d) Some diseases are multifactorial diseases. This means that many factors contribute to their cause. Cardiovascular disease is an example.

Age and gender are known risk factors for coronary heart disease.

The data in the table below shows the number of deaths from this disease in 2007 in the UK.

Age (years)	Number of deaths in males	Number of deaths in females
Under 35	129	27
35 – 44	783	183
45 – 54	2 679	578
55 – 64	6 687	1 779
65 – 74	11 335	4 987

What can you conclude from the table about the effect of age **and** gender on the risk of death from cardiovascular disease?

.....

.....

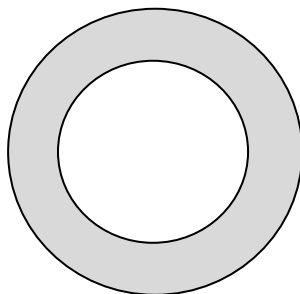
.....

.....

[2]

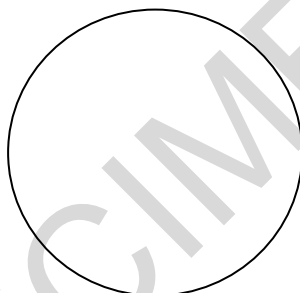
- (e) (i) Many factors increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

When Richard was a young boy, a section through a coronary artery (that supplies blood to the heart muscle) looked like this:



Richard has eaten a high fat diet for many years.

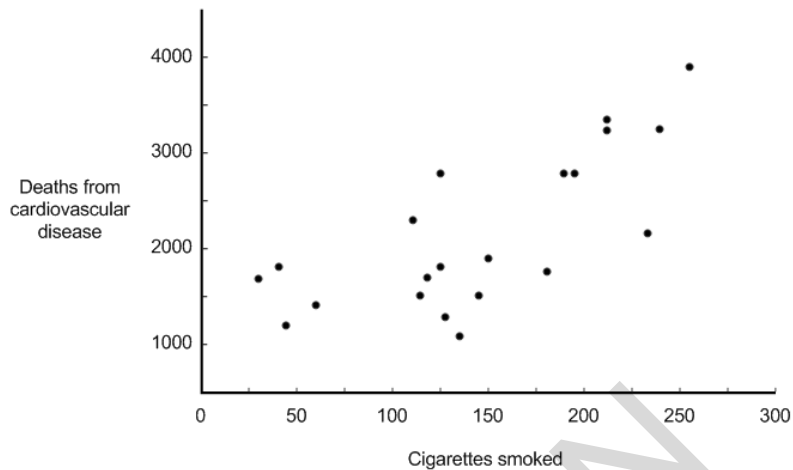
Complete the diagram below to show what Richard's coronary artery is likely to look like now:



[2]

- (ii) Cigarette smoking can increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease but does not necessarily lead to it.

Identify the type of correlation shown in the graph below.



..... [1]

- (iii) Richard smoked 40 cigarettes a day and died of old age when he was 95 years old.

Explain why this cannot be used as convincing evidence of a correlation between the risk of smoking cigarettes and developing cardiovascular disease.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

[2]

6 Sarah is feeling unwell so she goes to her doctor. Her doctor thinks she may have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

(a) CFS is difficult to diagnose. Before diagnosis doctors rule out a condition called anaemia by carrying out a blood test.

A blood test checks the number of blood cells in Sarah's blood.

(i) What is the role of the **red** blood cell?

.....

..... [1]

(ii) One symptom of CFS is extreme tiredness.

	Red blood cell (per mm <sup>3</sup> )	White blood cell (per mm <sup>3</sup> )	Platelets (per mm <sup>3</sup> )
<b>Normal level</b>	3 800 000	8 500	250 000
<b>Sarah</b>	2 700 000	9 000	245 000

Explain how the results shown in the table above could cause Sarah to feel tired.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

- (iii) The table below shows some information about red blood cells and the cells taken from the cheek of a human.

	Red blood cell	Cheek cell
Surface area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ )	136	7854
Volume ( $\mu\text{m}^3$ )	90	65 450
Surface area: volume ratio		0.12 : 1

Calculate the surface area to volume ratio of the red blood cell.

Show your working.

Give your answer to **two** significant figures.

..... [1]

- (iv) Red blood cells have a greater surface area to volume ratio than cheek cells.

Explain how this allows them to carry out their function.

.....  
 .....  
 ..... [1]

- (v) The doctor will check to see if Sarah has an underactive thyroid gland as this could also make her feel tired.

The thyroid gland produces a hormone.

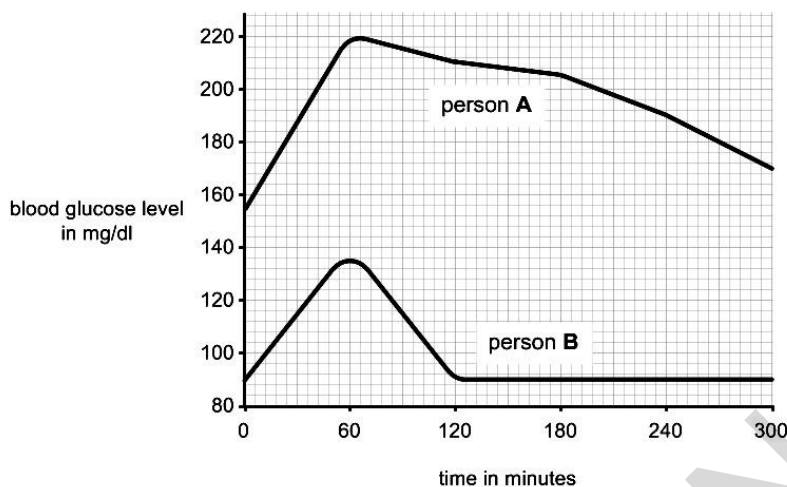
What is the role of a hormone?

..... [1]

(b) (i) Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas.

The graph below shows data from two people who were given a sugary drink.

Their blood sugar level was recorded every 60 minutes from when they had the drink.



There are two types of diabetes – type 1 and type 2.

Person A has type 2 diabetes. Person B does not have diabetes.

Describe how the graph shows this and explain why there is a difference in the blood sugar level.

.....

.....

.....

.....

[2]

(ii) The statements below are all to do with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Draw two lines to identify the sentences which are to do with **type 1 diabetes**.

Type 1 diabetes

body no longer responds to the insulin produced

should eat a diet high in complex carbohydrates and exercise

will need to inject insulin

pancreas stops producing insulin

[2]







- (e) Sea anemones can reproduce asexually.

Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of this method of reproduction.

Advantage.....

.....

Disadvantage.....

.....

[2]

- (f) (i) Sea anemones are mainly found in rock pools.

During the summer the water temperature in a rock pool can increase to a level which can be dangerous for a sea anemone.

Put a tick (✓) in the box that best explains why this temperature increase is a problem.

Enzyme catalysed reactions will speed up.

Enzyme catalysed reactions will slow down.

Enzymes will be killed.

Enzymes will become denatured.

[1]

- (ii) When it rains, the concentration of the sea water in a rock pools decreases.

What effect will this change in concentration have on a sea anemone's cells?

Put a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct answer.

Some cells may burst.

Some cells may shrink.

There will be no change to the cells.

Some cells will burst, others will shrink.

[1]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**