A LEVEL Cambridge Topical Past Papers

BIOLOGY

2017 — 2023

P4

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BIOLOGY 9700

TOPICAL PAST PAPER WORKSHEETS

2017 - 2023 | Questions + Mark scheme

AVAILABLE PAPERS

P1 P2

P4

1676 Questions

409 Questions

403 Questions

www.exam-mate.com

| TOPICS | P1 | P2 | P4 |
|---|-----|----|----|
| CELL STRUCTURE | 214 | 40 | 2 |
| BIOLOGICAL MOLECULES | 255 | 50 | 2 |
| ENZYMES | 119 | 31 | 13 |
| CELL MEMBRANES AND TRANSPORT | 127 | 33 | 2 |
| THE MITOTIC CELL CYCLE | 127 | 33 | 9 |
| NUCLEIC ACIDS AND PROTEIN SYNTHESIS | 134 | 42 | 8 |
| TRANSPORT IN PLANTS | 178 | 37 | 4 |
| TRANSPORT IN MAMMALS | 149 | 35 | 3 |
| GAS EXCHANGE AND SMOKING | 145 | 29 | 4 |
| INFECTIOUS DISEASE | 114 | 36 | 0 |
| IMMUNITY | 114 | 43 | 1 |
| ENERGY AND RESPIRATION | | | 44 |
| PHOTOSYNTHESIS | | | 37 |
| HOMEOSTASIS | | | 41 |
| CONTROL AND CO-ORDINATION | | | 47 |
| INHERITED CHANGE | | | 56 |
| SELECTION AND EVOLUTION | | | 44 |
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| | | | |

1 - (9700/42_Winter_2020_Q1) - Cell Structure, Photosynthesis

Fig. 1.1 shows a transmission electron micrograph of a chloroplast.

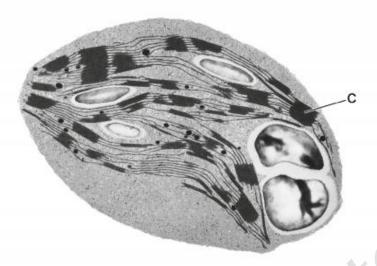


Fig. 1.1

(a) On Fig. 1.1, use label lines and letters to label:

A – the storage site of the carbohydrate product of photosynthesis

B – the site of the light independent stage.

[2]

| (b) (i) | Name the structure labelled C in Fig. 1.1. |
|---------|---|
| | c |
| (ii) | Explain how the structure of C is linked to its function. |
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| | [4] |
| (c) (i) | The anatomy of C4 plants is adapted to allow the rate of photosynthesis to remain high at high temperatures. |
| | C3 plants do not have these adaptations and an additional reaction occurs at high temperatures that reduces the rate of photosynthesis. |
| | Explain why the reaction that takes place at high temperatures in C3 plants reduces the rate of photosynthesis. |
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| | [2] |

(ii) C4 plants have higher rates of photosynthesis than C3 plants when the ratio of atmospheric oxygen to atmospheric carbon dioxide is high.

Fig. 1.2 shows the atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration in the last 50 million years.

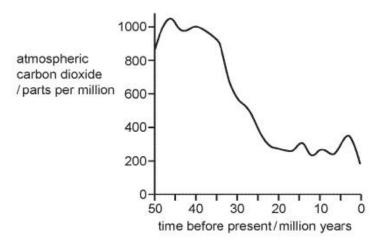


Fig. 1.2

| There is evidence | that C4 plants fir | st appeared 30 million | years ago. |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------|
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------|

| Vith reference to Fig. 1.2, suggest why C4 plants first appeared 30 million years ago. |
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| [Total: 12 |

1 - (9700/41_Summer_2020_Q4) - Biological Molecules, Enzymes

Mitochondrial complex I is a large enzyme complex that forms part of the electron transport chain. The enzyme is composed of many different polypeptides.

The genes coding for these polypeptides are located either in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) or in nuclear DNA. Mutations in these genes can lead to the production of an enzyme that does not function efficiently. This results in a disease known as mitochondrial complex I deficiency. If severe, this can lead to death in early childhood.

| (a) | Explain why people with mitochondrial complex I deficiency may have muscle weakness and difficulty with nervous coordination of movement. |
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- (b) When mitochondrial complex I deficiency is caused by mutation in mtDNA:
 - a cell in an ovary produces gametes with different proportions of normal mitochondria and mitochondria that contain the mtDNA mutation (mutant mitochondria)
 - a person has disease symptoms when the proportion of mutant mitochondria in their cells exceeds a certain threshold
 - the severity of disease symptoms, and the age at which they appear, can vary greatly in the children of one woman.

In a family with a history of mitochondrial complex I deficiency that is caused by a mutation in a **nuclear** gene, the probability of a child inheriting the mutation can be predicted.

Suggest why, in families where mitochondrial complex I deficiency is caused by mtDNA

| mutation, it is not possible to predict the probability of a child inheriting the mutation. | |
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| (c) | Genetic screening can be carried out on people with symptoms of mitochondrial complex ${\bf I}$ deficiency. |
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| | Previously 7 mtDNA genes and 37 nuclear genes were sequenced. Some of the people tested did not have mutations in any of these genes. As a result, another gene was sequenced in these people and was found to be mutated. |
| | This led to the suggestion that genetic screening should sequence a larger proportion of the genome for people suspected of having this disease. |
| | Discuss the ethical reasons for and against sequencing a larger proportion of the genome for people suspected of having mitochondrial complex I deficiency. |
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| (d) | One mutation linked to mitochondrial complex I deficiency is a base substitution. It causes the amino acid glycine to be replaced by the amino acid valine in a region of α helix in a protein that is important for the formation of mitochondrial complex I. |
| | Glycine is a small amino acid with an R group of one hydrogen atom whereas valine has a larger and branched R group. |
| | Predict how the change in amino acids would affect the structure of the protein. |
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2 - (9700/43_Summer_2020_Q4) - Biological Molecules, Enzymes

(a)

Lung epithelial cells have a thin layer of watery mucus on their surface.

The normal allele of the CFTR gene codes for a transport protein that transports chloride ions out of epithelial cells.

Fig. 4.1 is a diagram of part of the cell surface membrane and the mucus layer of an epithelial cell with normal CFTR proteins.

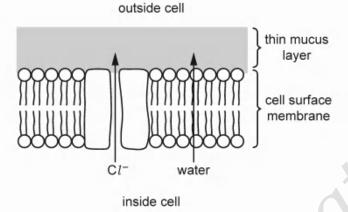


Fig. 4.1

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disorder caused by having two recessive alleles of *CFTR*. In severe cases of CF, the transport proteins are not added to the cell surface membrane. This causes the mucus layer to be thick and sticky.

| Explain why the absence of CFTR proteins will cause the mucus layer to be thick and sticky. |
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| (b) | The probability of a baby having CF when both parents are heterozygous carriers for CF is 25%. |
|-----|--|
| | It is possible to carry out prenatal screening to check for CF by using one of these tests: |
| | Both tests slightly increase the probability of the pregnancy failing (miscarriage). |
| | Outline the advantages of carrying out prenatal screening for CF. |
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| | [3] |

ANSWERS

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| (a) | A – label line pointing to starch grain ; | |
|---------|--|--|
| | B – label line pointing to stroma ; | |
| (b)(i) | granum / grana ; A stack of thylakoids I thylakoid | |
| (b)(ii) | any four from: | |
| | 1 (stack of) thylakoids; | |
| | 2 (membranes / thylakoids / C) form large / increase, surface area; | |
| | 3 for, (named) pigments / photosystems / light-harvesting clusters ; | |
| | 4 for absorption of light energy; | |
| | 5 so, large number of / many, enzymes / ETC / ATP synthase / stalked particles ; | |
| | 6 for, light dependent stage / photophosphorylation ; | |
| (c)(i) | 1 oxygen, combines / reacts, with, rubisco / RuBP; | |
| | 2 less / no, carbon dioxide, combines / reacts, with, rubisco / RuBP; A less or no carbon fixation | |
| | 3 ref. to photorespiration ; | |
| | ignore refs to denaturation | |
| (c)(ii) | any three from: | |
| | 1 photosynthesis (by C3 plants) is occurring; | |
| | 2 decrease in (atmospheric) carbon dioxide | |
| | or increase in (atmospheric) oxygen | |
| | or increase in/high, oxygen to carbon dioxide ratio ; | |
| | 3 rubisco favours reaction with oxygen / AW; | |
| | 4 C4 plants have a selective advantage / description; | |
| | 5 oxygen acts as a selection pressure; | |
| | 6 AVP ; e.g. ref. to mutation in C3 plants | |

2 - (9700/42_Summer_2021_Q9) - Cell Structure, Transport In Plants

any nine from: 1 (function is) to make ATP; 2 ref. to double membrane / outer and inner membrane / envelope; inner membrane folded / cristae, to increase / for large, surface area; 4 has, ATP synthase / stalked particles; 5 has, ETC / carrier (proteins) / cytochromes; 6 (site of) oxidative phosphorylation / chemiosmosis; impermeable to protons; intermembrane space has low pH / high concentration of protons; protons pumped into intermembrane space; 10 proton gradient between intermembrane space and matrix protons diffuse from intermembrane space to matrix; matrix 11 contains (co)enzymes for, link reaction / the Krebs cycle; outer membrane 12 permeable to, pyruvate / reduced NAD / oxygen; 13 AVP; e.g. ribosomes / DNA, involved in protein synthesis

(b) any six from:

1 aerenchyma;

2 in stem and roots;

3 help oxygen to, move / diffuse, to, roots / submerged parts;

4 shallow roots;

5 air (film) trapped on underwater leaves / described;

6 greater internode growth or leaves or flowers grow above water level;

7 (growth regulated by) gibberellin / ethene;

8 anaerobic respiration, in roots / underwater / when submerged; A alcoholic fermentation

9 tolerant to high ethanol (concentration);

10 ref. to ethanol / alcohol, dehydrogenase;