AQA Biology GCSE - Trophic Levels in an Ecosystem



Mark schemes

Q1.

(a) carbon dioxide

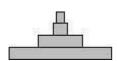
1

water

(b) light

1

(c)

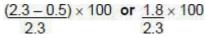


1

(d) 2.3 and 0.5

> allow figures in millions allow in range 2.25 to 2.3 for 2.3 allow in range 0.5 to 0.55 for 0.5

1



allow correct substitution of student's incorrect graph readings

1

78.2(6087....)

allow correct answer from student's substitution of incorrect graph readings ignore incorrect rounding

1

78

allow correct rounding of calculated value

1

(e) increase (in biomass of herring)

1

from 0.1 to 1.8 (million tonnes)

change of 1.7 (million tonnes)

change of 1700%

allow a tolerance of ± 1/2 small square

for graph readings

1



	(†)	smaller / 4-yr-old fish not caught allow younger fish not caught		
		allow (only) older fish caught		
		anon (only) older non edagin	1	
		(so) escaping fish can reproduce		
		allow so younger fish can survive to		
		reproduce		
			1	[12]
				[۱۷]
Q2.				
QZ.	(a)	from light / sunlight		
	()	ignore sun unqualified		
			1	
		absorbed by chlorophyll / chloroplasts		
		if no other mark awarded allow by		
		photosynthesis for 1 mark	1	
			'	
	(b)	krill / herring / copepod	1	
			ı	
	(c)	algae		
			1	
	(d)	1 algae		
		2 krill or copepod 3 squid		
		4 mackerel		
		(5 Human)		
		all correct for 1 mark	1	
	<i>(</i>)			
	(e)	any two from: (losses due to)		
		 non-eaten parts (of squid / krill) 		
		allow bones / shells		
		allow eaten by other animals		
		• <u>respiration</u> or <u>respiring</u> (in mackerel)		
		do not accept respiration produces /		
		makes / creates energy		
		excretion (by mackerel)		
		allow loss of a named waste product		
		such as CO2 / urea ignore loss of waste unqualified		
		ignore faeces		
		·	2	



(f) 2.3 and 0.1 (million)

allow in the range 2.25 to 2.3 for 2.3 (million)

 $\frac{2.3-0.1}{2.3}$ × 100 or $\frac{220}{2.3}$

1

1

95.65217.....

allow answer from correct substitution of incorrect values from Figure 3

1

96

allow student's calculated answer correctly rounded to the nearest whole number

1

(g) Level 3: A judgement, strongly linked and logically supported by a sufficient range of correct reasons, is given.

5-6

Level 2: Some logically linked reasons are given. There may also be a simple judgement.

3-4

Level 1: Relevant points are made. They are not logically linked. 1-2

1-2

No relevant content

0

Indicative content

figures may be given without units (million tonnes) throughout

points for:

- small fish are not caught so can live long enough to reproduce
- biomass / stocks have generally increased after these laws introduced
- '77-'81 law (total ban) resulted in increase in biomass, eg 0.1 to 0.48 or to 0.9 by '84
- '84 law (mesh size) resulted in increase in biomass, eg 0.9 to 1.8 (by '90)
- '97 law (quotas) resulted in increase, eg 1.15 to 1.25
- '98 law (ban in breeding season) resulted in increase, eg 1.25 to 2.5

points against:

- could be a cause other than the law or correlation does not necessarily indicate causal relationship or other factors
- laws superimposed so can't necessarily tell the effect of each
- each law results in an increase followed by a decrease
- quotas lead to dead fish being thrown back into sea



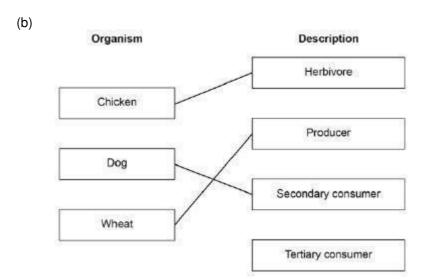
For Level 3 points both for and against must be considered together with appropriate use of data

[17]

Q3.

(a) 3

1



additional line from a box on the left negates the mark for that box

3

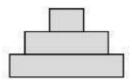
(c) photosynthesis

1

(d) the dog produces waste in faeces

1

(e)



1

(f) farming cows needs more land than farming insects

1

1

fewer cows being farmed will slow down global warming

[9]

Q4.

(a) triangular pyramid with 3 levels

1

correct labels: (waste) vegetables / plants; insect(s); dog(s)

2



do not accept additional incorrect labels 1 any two from:

(b)

carbon dioxide from respiration (from dog) allow carbon dioxide breathed out (by

urea from excretion (from dog)

allow urea in urine (from dog)

not all parts (of insects) are absorbed / digested (by dog)

allow faeces from egestion (from dog) ignore references to loss of energy if no other mark awarded allow two factors without descriptions for 1 mark

(c) less land required

1

(so) more space for crops (for humans) allow more meat (from cows etc) for humans

1

less methane (from animals) therefore less global warming allow less methane from rotting vegetables in landfill

1

(therefore) less harmful effects of global warming on (human) food production

> allow example such as less flooding of farmland allow may lead to the development of

more foods for humans made from insects

1 [8]

Q5.

(a) primary consumer

1

correct shape: 4 tiers with largest at bottom and smallest at top (b)

1

correctly labelled:

dragonfly / nymph

+ hydra

+ daphnia

+ algae



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in this order
                   or allow:
                   3rd-order or tertiary consumer or apex / top predator or
                   (trophic level) 4
                   2nd-order or secondary consumer or (trophic level) 3
                   1st-order or primary consumer or herbivore or (trophic
                   level) 2 producer or (trophic level) 1
                   allow for 2 marks inverted pyramid if
                   correctly labelled
                                                                                         1
(c)
      any one from:
      (Daphnia biomass smaller because)
             non-digestible parts (of algae) or lost in faeces
                   ignore waste
             not all absorbed
             lost in urine / urea
             used in respiration or lost as carbon dioxide / CO2
                   allow excretion
                   allow (to supply energy) for movement /
                   warmth
                   allow used to supply energy
             algae not all eaten or eaten by other organisms
             some algae decompose
                                                                                         1
(d)
                   an answer of 14 000 scores 2 marks
      14
                                                                                         1
      14 000
                   allow evidence of an incorrectly
                   calculated mean x 1000
                   allow 1.4 × 104
                                                                                         1
(e)
                   an answer of 2.625 × 104 or 2.63 × 104
                   or 2.6 × 104 scores 4 marks
                   an answer of 26250 scores 3 marks
                   allow ecf from part (d)
      (volume of pond = ) 1.875 or 2.5 \times 1.5 \times 0.5
                   an incorrect answer for one step does
                   not prevent allocation of marks for
                   subsequent steps
                                                                                         1
      14 000 × 1.875
                   allow ecf from part (d)
                                                                                         1
```

1

1 1 1

1

1

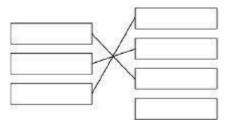
[14]



26250 1 2.625×104 allow 2.63 × 104 or 2.6 × 104 1 (f) increased (growth / reproduction of) algae 1 (more algae so) more food for Daphnia allow fertiliser toxic to Hydra (1) (so) fewer Daphnia eaten (1) 1 (Hydra have) less food (g) 1 because (graph shows) fewer Daphnia (with more fertiliser) allow other valid suggestions, eg fertiliser toxic to Hydra (1) fertiliser causes growth of algae (on surface) which block light and so die and decay or eutrophication (1) (decay / eutrophication) uses up oxygen (so lack of oxygen for Hydra) (1)

Q6.

(a)



extra line from a scientific term cancels the mark

(b) $\frac{10}{200} \times 100$

5/5.0

an answer of 5 / 5.0 scores 2 marks

[9]



(c) digestion 1 respiration 1 excretion 1 in this order only (d) fewer are eaten (by small fish) allow there are fewer (small) fish eating them do not accept none are eaten 1 Q7. (a) x-axis: scale + labelled, including units scale ≥ ½ width of graph paper label: biomass in g/m2 1 bar widths correct ± ½-square each side allow 1 mark if 3 correct 2 all 4 bars correctly labelled large fish + small fish + invertebrate (animals) + algae $(trophic\ level)\ 4 + 3 + 2 + 1$ tertiary consumer + secondary consumer + primary consumer + producer ignore bar heights 1 840<u>-10</u>×100 (b) allow equivalent calculation 1 98.809523... / 98.810 / 98.81 / 98.8 1 99 allow answer given to two significant figures from an incorrect calculation in step 2 1

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an answer of 99 scores 3 marks

(c) inedible parts / example

> allow eaten by other animals or not all organisms eaten

or

egested / faeces

allow not digested allow excretion / urine ignore waste

or

respiration / as CO2

ignore energy losses ignore movement

(d) bacteria decay organic matter / sewage / algae / dead plants

1

1

(by) digestion

allow example such as starch broken down to sugar protein broken down to amino acids

1

(and) bacteria respire aerobically

or

respire using oxygen

1

(which) lowers oxygen concentration (in water)

fish have less oxygen

allow reduced respiration of fish

1

(so) reduced energy supply causes death of fish allow toxins in the sewage kill fish ignore pathogens or (pathogenic) bacteria cause disease in fish and kills

them

[13]

Q8.

(a)
$$0.03 = \frac{\text{output}}{5950 + 50} \times 10$$

an answer of 1.8 scores 3 marks

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output = $\frac{0.03 \times (590 + 50)}{100}$

1

1

1.8

1

(b) indoor % efficiency = $\frac{40}{10000 + 6000} \times 100$

1

0.25(%)

an answer of 8.33 scores 3 marks allow 8 / 8.3 / 8.333...

1

$$\left(\frac{0.25}{0.03}\right) = 8.33 \text{ (times)}$$

1

(c) any two from:

• in faeces / egestion or

not all food is absorbed

- not all food is ingested
- in urine / excretion
- in respiration
- keeping warm
- movement

do not accept 'for respiration' allow as 'heat'

2

(d) warmer indoors so less energy wasted in keeping warm allow less energy lost as 'heat'

1

1

less movement indoors so less energy wasted

if no other mark awarded, allow it is warmer and there is less movement indoors for 1 mark

[10]

Q9.

(a) snail or shrew

additional incorrect answer negates correct answer



		1	
(b)	shrew additional incorrect answer negates correct answer	1	
(c)	fewer shrews to eat them	1	
(d)	population	1	
(e)	С	1	
(f)	(11 000 × 0.1 =) 1 100 (kJ)	1	
(g)	the snails do not eat the roots of the lettuces	1	
(h)	any one from: light (intensity) temperature moisture (levels) soil pH mineral / ion content (of soil) wind intensity / speed ignore wind direction carbon dioxide (levels) oxygen (levels)	1	[8]
Q10. (a)	 any two from: idea of absorption of light / energy transfer to chemical energy allow produce sugars / glucose / starch / carbohydrate / food / biomass provides food / energy for animals / caterpillar releases oxygen 	2	
(b)	15.00	1	
(c)	15(%)		



 3×100

allow 1 mark for 20 with no answer or incorrect answer

or

allow 1 mark for 0.15

2

(d) (i) any two from:

- markings look like eyes / face / mouth of much larger animal
- looks fierce / scary / dangerous allow it looks like a snake
- to frighten blue tit / bird

max 1 if reference to camouflage

2

(ii) any two from:

- sharp / long / big claws ignore strong
- sharp / hooked beak ignore strong / big
- large wings or flies quickly allow streamlined / aerodynamic ignore powerful wings
- good eyesight

2

[9]

Q11.

- (a) (i) any two from:
 - not all eaten allow eaten by other animals
 - used for respiration ignore used / lost in heat / movement
 - lost as CO2 / water / urea
 - lost as faeces or not all digested if neither mark awarded allow 1 mark for lost as waste

ignore references to energy losses

do not allow for growth / repair / reproduction

2

(ii) any one from:

- thrushes eat other things
- thrush numbers likely to vary (considerably) allow it is only an estimate (of population size) or only counted thrushes for 5 hours
- thrushes were not present all the time
- thrushes feed on a much bigger area

1

1

1

1

1



	/I \						
1	(b)	١ ١	/ι	lanv	nnα	from	ď
١		,	ı.	πιιν	OHIC	110111	1

- there are two dependent variables
- there is no independent variable
- to show the association / correlation / pattern (between the two variables)

(ii) (snails in woodlands)
more have dark(er) colour(ed shells) or fewer have light-coloured shells

allow converse for grassland, if clear

(shells have) no / fewer stripes or have no stripes allow converse for grassland, if clear

(iii) less likely to be seen (by predators / birds / thrushes)
allow camouflaged (from predators / birds /
thrushes)
allow light coloured shells with stripes would be
more visible (to predators / birds / thrushes in
woodland (than grassland)).

[7]