



Examiners' Report November 2011

GCSE Biology/Science 5BI1H/01



ALWAYS LEARNING

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at <u>www.edexcel.com</u>.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our **Ask The Expert** email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link: http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/

Alternatively, you can contact our Science Advisor directly by sending an email to Stephen Nugus on <u>ScienceSubjectAdvisor@EdexcelExperts.co.uk</u>. You can also telephone 0844 576 0037 to speak to a member of our subject advisor team.

ResultsPlus

Get more from your exam results

...and now your mock results too!

ResultsPlus is Edexcel's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam and mock performance, helping you to help them more effectively.

- See your students' scores for every exam question
- Spot topics, skills and types of question where they need to improve their learning
- Understand how your students' performance compares with Edexcel national averages
- Track progress against target grades and focus revision more effectively with NEW Mock Analysis

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit <u>www.edexcel.com/resultsplus</u>. To set up your ResultsPlus account, call 0844 576 0024

November 2011

Publications Code UG029799

All the material in this publication is copyright C Edexcel Ltd 2011

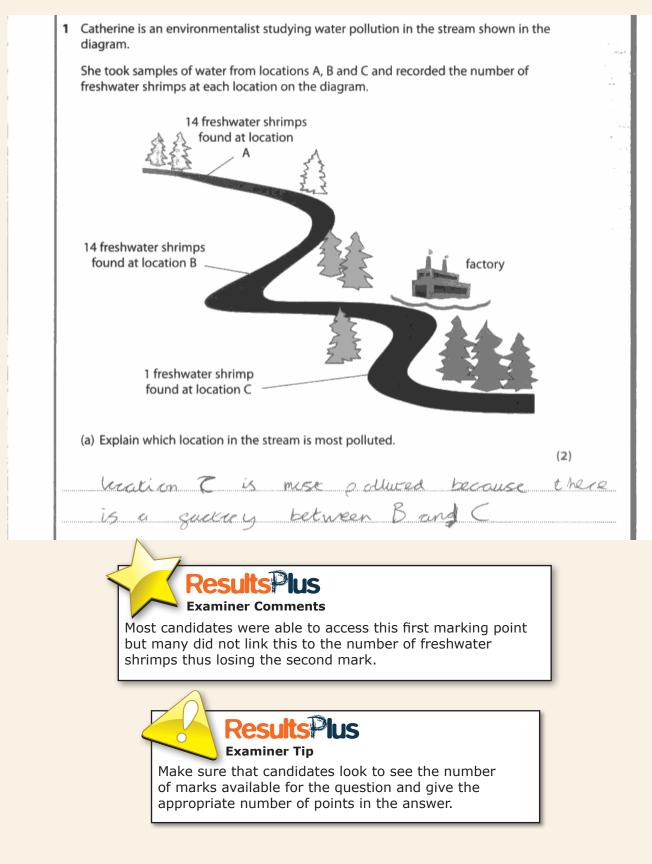
Introduction

As the first Biology paper for the new specification, this paper performed well with most candidates accessing the paper at some level. The six marker questions were accessed by most of the candidates at mark band 1 or 2 giving a mark between one and four, with the more able candidates able to attain full marks in these questions. The genetics question caused a few problems where the candidates were not specific enough in their responses, often referring to genes instead of alleles. The calculations were handled well and the interpretation of graphs were high scoring parts of questions. Candidates may like to go through percentage calculations to gain the higher grades.

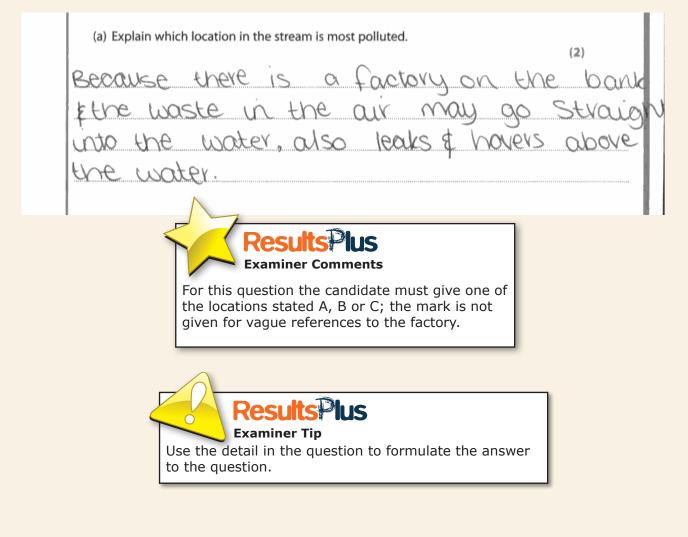
Question 1 (a)

Candidates accessed this question well but some examples of how marks were lost are included.

One mark awarded here for correctly identifying the location C.



No marks scored for this question here due to the candidate giving an imprecise response.



Question 1 (d)

Many candidates failed to gain any credit for their answers as they made vague references to pollution and did not describe the effect of a build up of nitrates on an aquatic environment.

(d) Describe what will happen to the organisms in the stream when nitrates lead the factory.	
	(4)
When nitrates leak from the fac	tory
then into the river it will pollw	e the
stream and kill of all the	organisms,
that are living there.	



In this case there are no marks as the organisms in the environment had to be linked to the reduction in oxygen levels in the water. A simple statement of pollution is not enough.



The build up of nitrates has many consequences these need to be explained and linked together to gain the marks.

This is a good overall response gaining three marks for the layer of algae causing the plants to stop photosynthesising and causing them to die. There is no link between the other organisms dying linked to oxygen depletion.

(d) Describe what will happen to the organisms in the stream when nitrates leak from the factory. (4) line added nitrate cause a layer algae to grow on this then blocks a Of the top of found Fhe OUF Plants from being ing the able the Synthisis causing Plants PICINES die the e (Producir Stop -hen the 1.Sh Will die LLey breath Cant



response we would expect on the higher paper.

Question 2 (a) (i)

Generally candidates were good at interpreting genetic diagrams but were less sure of the terms homozygous and heterozygous.

Generally the candidat	tes could recog	nise that two	of the offspring	had the genetic	disorder
cystic fibrosis.					



Question 2 (a) (iii)

Overall this question resulted in many vague responses which were not worthy of credit. On genetics questions candidates need to make specific reference to the dominant or recessive allele not gene.

Candidates did less well on this question mainly due to them not being precise enough in their answer. There were many references to carriers but this was not specific enough.

 (iii) Explain why both individuals in generation II must be heterozygous for cystic fibrosis. 	
	(2)
Because both there parents are Carri-	ers
os the disease, but dont actually	have
it.	



This is an example of the vague responses given by candidates to this question. Many candidates just described the term heterozygous, they needed to refer to the recessive allele for CF not the gene.



Candidates need to be as precise as possible when dealing with genetics questions, also link the recessive allele to the fact that two of the offspring had CF so must have inherited one recessive allele from each parent.

This is an example of a candidate's vague response. The parents could be unaffected if they were homozygous dominant also.

(iii) Explain why both individuals in generation II must be heterozygous for cystic fibrosis. (2) Because none of the parents are alfected by cystic Fibrosis. **Results**Plus **Examiner Comments** Candidates need to be much more specific and detailed in their response to genetics guestions. References to the recessive allele being inherited from each of the parents would gain credit. **Examiner Tip** Be very careful with genetics questions to refer to the specific allele responsible for a disorder and not make

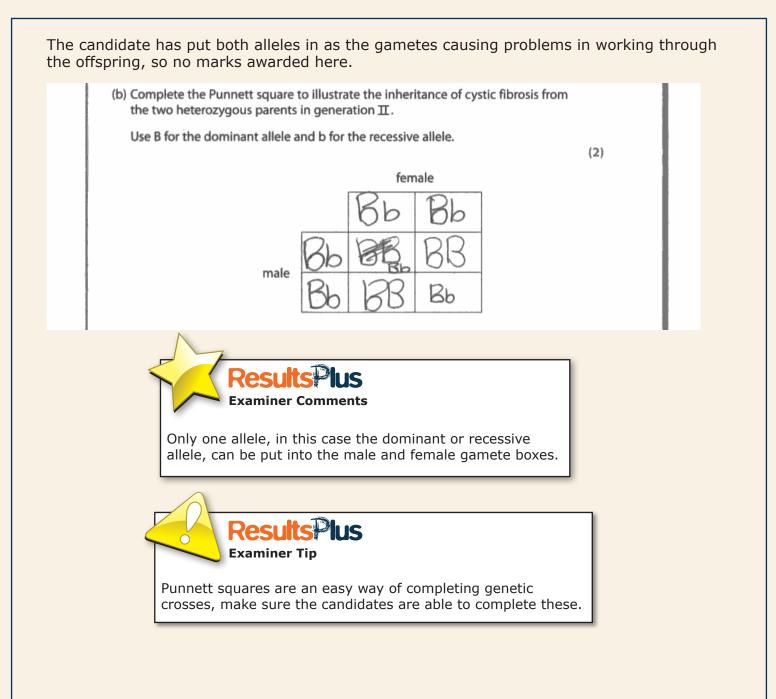
vague references to genes.

Question 2 (b)

Generally this question was well accessed by most candidates although some slip ups especially using the wrong gametes or putting both gametes in each square.

Generally well answered by candidates, the Punnett square had two specific marking points for the gametes and the offspring.

(b) Complete the Punnett square to illustrate the inheritance of cystic fibrosis from the two heterozygous parents in generation II. Use B for the dominant allele and b for the recessive allele. (2)female B BB R B male ЬB Ь h **Examiner Comments** This is a clear example of two marks here, we allowed the candidates to put the Bb in the wrong order. **Examiner Tip** Make sure when drawing Punnett squares that there is only one allele in each of the squares for the gametes and two alleles for each of the offspring.



Question 2 (c)

This question caused some problems for the candidates, their responses were lacking in the detail needed to gain credit. Often they just put in percentages without explaining how they came to that conclusion.

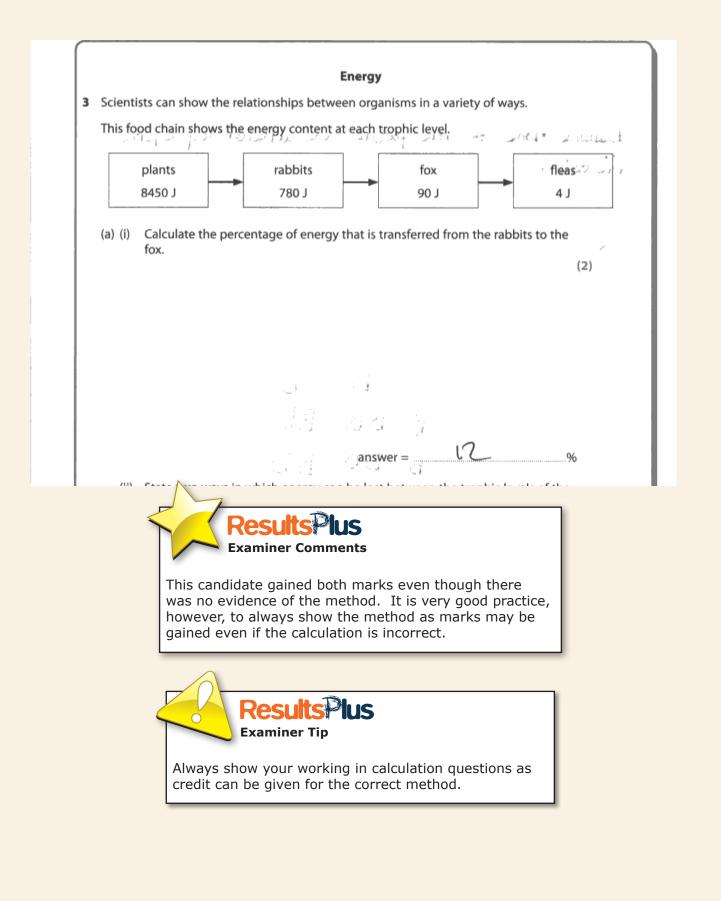
Candidates struggled to gain good marks in this question, often because they referred to the wrong generation or made references to the Punnett square completed previously.

(c) Explain why pedigree analysis would be important to the unaffected individuals in generation III. Use percentages or ratios to help illustrate this. There is a 25% change that a person will be affected by cystic Fibrasis if ferenant both parents are heterozyque and Dary a cystic fibrares allele. **Results**Plus **Examiner Comments** This candidate has gained both marks by being specific about the detail. **Results**Plus **Examiner Tip**

When a question asks you to use ratios or percentages in the answer these must be specific and correct reference made to the inheritance patterns.

Question 3 (a) (i)

Candidates often were able to pick out the correct figures but were unable to do the correct percentage calculation often putting the figures the wrong way around. However, it was pleasing to note the number of candidates who were able to access the marks successfully.



This is an example of the correct figures being used but the candidate being unable to gain any credit as they are unable to do percentage calculations.

(a) (i) Calculate the percentage of energy that is transferred from the rabbits to the fox.
 (2)





It would be useful for teachers to spend time going through basic calculations in preparation for the examination.

answer =



Make sure that basic mathematical skills including calculating percentages and ratios as well as calculating the mean are completed.

%

Question 3 (a) (ii)

Overall this question was well accessed by candidates although a few lost marks by being too vague in their answers and not relating them back to the question or referring to energy loss from the fox rather than the rabbit.

Many candidates were able to gain one if not two marks here by relating this to the basic life processes although a few candidates lost marks by referring to growth as a way of energy loss.

(ii) State two ways in which energy can be lost between the trophic levels of the rabbit and the fox.		
	(2)
1	through exception of the rabbits	
2 ++	rough the rabbit maring and releasing energy.	



This candidate has accessed both marks with excretion and movement causing energy to be used.



Ensure if the question asks for two ways that you actually include two ways of the energy being lost.

Although generally well answered, a few candidates, like the one below, lost out on marks due to a lack of relating the answer back to the question.

(ii) State two ways in which energy can be lost between the trophic levels of the rabbit and the fox. (2) hunting rabbits take time to pass on. Sox 2



In this case if the candidate had stated the rabbit loses energy as it has to move fast to get away from the fox hunting it, that would be worth the mark.



Please try to read the question carefully before answering it and relate the answer back to the question.

Question 3 (b)

Overall most candidates gained at least one mark for this question, usually for restricting the movement of the chickens so less energy is lost.

(b) Suggest how a farmer rearing chickens could limit energy loss from the chickens. (2)
He could keep them earing on a
Veguiar basis and avoid them from Using that energy by not letting them
run arount.



In this case it is important for the candidate to note that there are two marks for the question so we are looking for two methods of reducing energy loss rather than just one.

ResultsPlus **Examiner Tip**

Although a mark here could be given for higher energy/ protein food there is no mark for feed more. Once again this candidate has only accessed one of the two marks in this case for the keeping warm.

(b) Suggest how a farmer rearing chickens could limit energy loss from the chickens. (2)
by keeping them warm. it a
falmer keeps his chickens walm,
then they won't lose much energy
heat energy. Also don't feed them as much the more dioppings they lose the more energy.
Results Plus Examiner Comments

As this is an applied question and we are asking candidates to suggest a way in which farmers could reduce energy loss there may be many other methods which would be marked correctly if they were viable methods.



Candidates should focus on the number of marks allocated to a question and develop their answer to ensure they have covered the required number of points especially with state and suggest questions.

Question 3 (c) (ii)

This question was less well answered as many candidates referred to what mutualism is rather than answer the question which is how do the bacteria benefit the plants. Several candidates also referred to how the bacteria benefitted from the relationship but again this is not what the question asked.

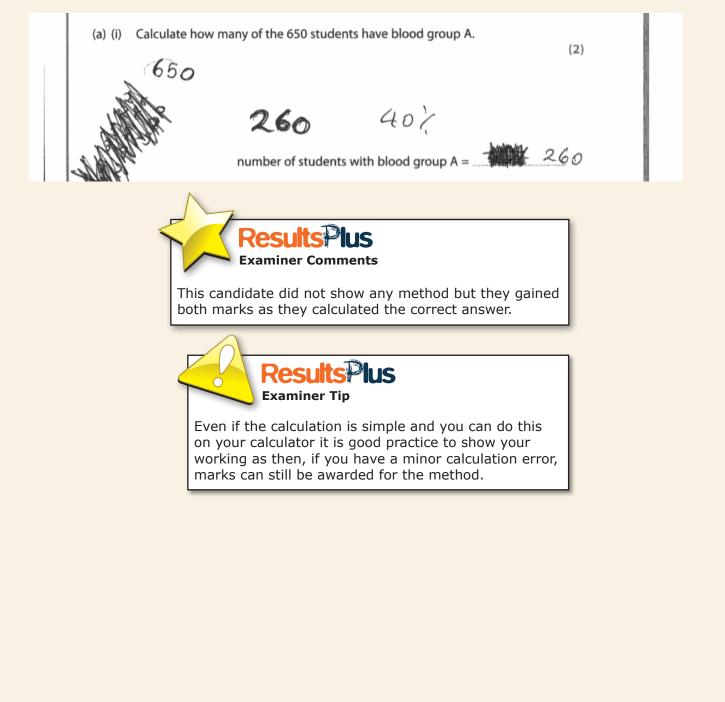
	eas and beans are known as legumes. hey form a mutualistic relationship with the bacteria in their roots.
E	xplain the importance of this mutualistic relationship to the legumes. (3)
The	nitrogen fixing bacteria feeds proven
dead	matter on the roots of legumes
	leave the roots of the legumes
	n and help their growth. It is
1	alistic because the bacteria is being
ped.	
	Results Plus Examiner Comments The candidate gains credit for one mark for recognising that these bacteria are nitrogen fixing bacteria. If they had gone on to say that they form nitrates they would have gained a second mark here.
	Results Plus Examiner Tip It is vital that candidates answer the question asked and not just
	read the introduction to the question. The question in this case is very specific and therefore so is the answer required.

This is an example of the candidate not reading the question clearly. (ii) Peas and beans are known as legumes. They form a mutualistic relationship with the bacteria in their roots. Explain the importance of this mutualistic relationship to the legumes. (3) baeteria helps the Reas and the beans grow, so without them they ting, or if the recationship be nt wallstie the bacteria would Peasy and beans the **lesults**Plus **Examiner Comments** The answer is too vague, the candidate needs to state how the bacteria help the plants to grow by providing them with essential nitrates. **Results Jus Examiner Tip** When there is an introduction to the question it is vital that the candidates focus on what is required from the question.

Question 4 (a) (i)

This was generally well answered with candidates finding this a much easier percentage calculation although a few candidates lost marks because of mathematical errors.

Generally this calculation was well answered and students coped better with this percentage calculation than the one on energy in trophic levels.



The candidate gained both marks here but if they had written the method down and got the wrong answer they could still have gained one mark.



number of students with blood group $A = \frac{260}{2}$



The candidate has written a clear method and got the correct answer so gained full credit.



Write down all stages in the calculation to maximise your marks.

(2)

Question 4 (a) (ii)

Many candidates were able to identify this as discontinuous variation and we also allowed discrete variation as an alternative here.

The most common incorrect response given was genetic variation which could not be construed from the graph.

State the type of variation shown in the graph for the blood groups of students. (1)discontinous varitation. Examiner Comments Correct response, gets one mark. **Results Plus Examiner Tip** When asked for the type of variation shown by the graph this must either be continuous or discontinuous. In this case as blood groups do not vary over a range this is discontinuous. The question is specific about the need to use the graph to state the type of variation. (ii) State the type of variation shown in the graph for the blood groups of students. (1)OenetiC Variation **Examiner Comments** Many candidates came up with genetic variation but this cannot be construed from the graph, only from the information so it is not a correct response to the question. Phis Result **Examiner Tip** When using data make sure that you refer directly to the graph, in this case there is only one answer and that is discontinuous variation.

Question 4 (b) (ii)

Overall candidates gained one or two marks on this question with most of them able to interpret something from the graph.

Many candidates scored one or two marks on this question, the most accesible mark was for a correct interpretation of the data, the candidates did not have to manipulate the data merely make a correct statement based on this.

(ii) Describe the variation in height of these students, as shown in the graph. (3) This variation of height is called Continous variation, the range of numbers heights gover from 130 to 175 and difference between the the 45 **Examiner Comments** Some candidates also recognised this data as continuous as did this candidate. Only a few candidates could recognise this as a normal distribution curve although some did describe the bell shaped curve. **Examiner Tip** When asked to describe the graph candidates should try to be as technical as possible. They should use the terminology such as continuous data and normal distribution curve as well as quoting data from the graph to gain maximum marks.

Question 4 (c)

Overall candidates tended to gain at least one mark here for the process of evolution but they needed to describe the process step by step in order to gain the higher marks.

Overall most candidates have gained at least one mark on this question but many got sidetracked by the mention of taller animals and spent a long time describing how giraffes may have evolved longer necks.

(c) Taller animals may have an evolutionary advantage. Explain how evolution by natural selection brings about changes in a species. (3)Natural selection is the survival of the Fitest. According to darwin's theory of evolution, changes occur in a species that may increase it's advantages Surviving- In this s case taller animals of curaffer with their long necks - are bett Animats that are shorter have the enviroment. Sholter may (Total for Question 4 = 10 marks) characteristics last over time. be



In this case the candidate gained the mark for the survival of the fittest as an evolutionary process. Candidates needed to describe the process of evolution to gain full marks.

211 **Examiner Tip**

Candidates need to be careful not to get side-tracked by a statement: this question was about the evolutionary process not the development of longer necks in giraffes. This candidate gained one mark for the idea of taller animals being able to out compete smaller ones for food.

(c) Taller animals may have an evolutionary advantage. Explain how evolution by natural selection brings about changes in a species. (3) taller animals they can Such cus reach taller places such as trees, althich no other animal con rach. Theefore tallor orinal can lab more food. the and more food has go a and some More ver years ۲ to stay alive in different animals adapted name Longs!



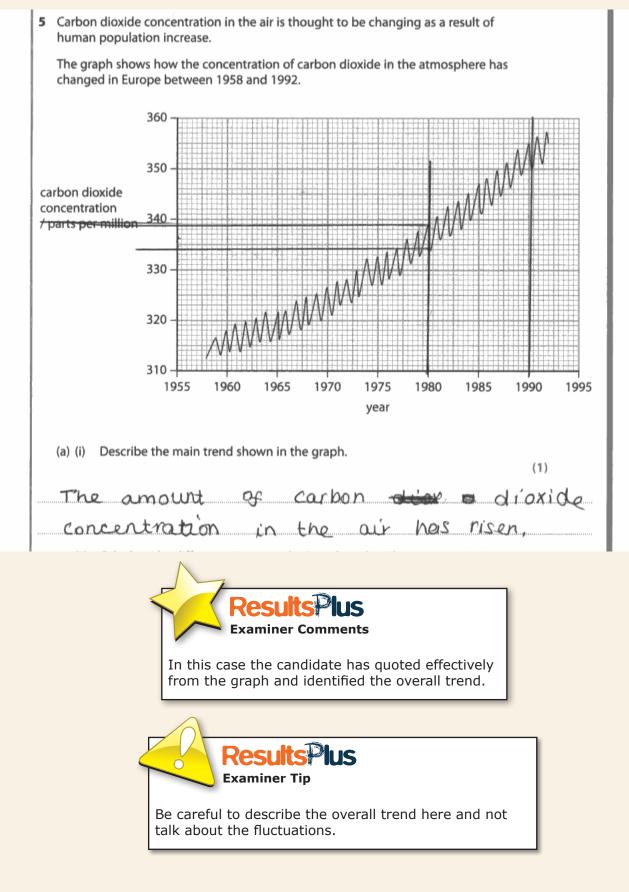
This candidate did not go on to explain the processes of evolution such as survival of the fittest or the idea of passing on the genes for advantageous characteristics to their offspring.

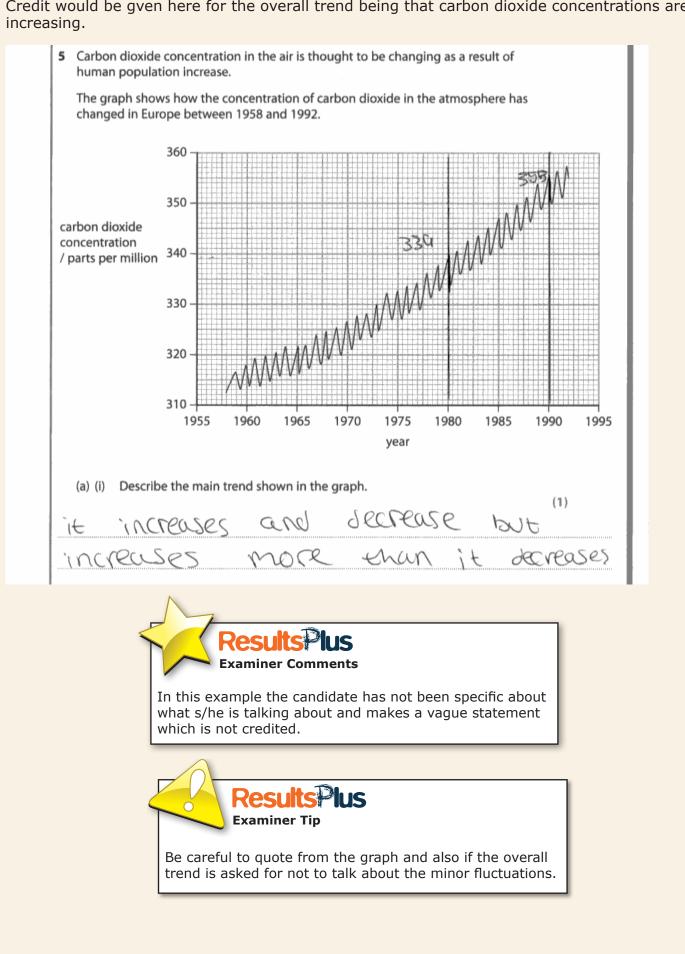


Be careful to read the whole question and ensure that you are answering the question asked rather than focusing on the wrong part of the question.

Question 5 (a) (i)

Overall this was answered well. Where candidates have lost marks it is due to them not quoting correctly from the graph or not giving the overall trend but talking about the fluctuations.





Credit would be gven here for the overall trend being that carbon dioxide concentrations are

Question 5 (a) (ii)

This was well answered by most candidates. Where marks were lost it was generally due to poor reading of the scales on the graph rather than the simple calculation.

Question 5 (b)

These questions were accessed well with most candidates who responded using a variety of methods such as diagrams, flow charts and even bullet points, all of which are acceptable.

The six mark questions have caused some worries for teachers and candidates however these were tackled reasonably well by candidates. The majority of candidates getting into band 2 or 3 giving one to four marks. The better candidates were able to access the highest band and attain six marks.

*(b) Carbon is present in a wide variety of compounds in the carbon cycle. Describe how carbon is cycled in the environment. (6)nciudos 1ration Whic (CQ) take a sticn 5 allow



This response has managed to cover most of the aspects of the carbon cycle and so accesses band 3 but the flow is not coherent and it lacks some clarity so ends up at five marks.

Results Plus

For the six mark questions it is possible to draw this as a diagram, as long as it is annotated, or a flow chart. In some cases bullet pointed lists can still gain maximum marks. As you can see this is a more limited response but nevertheless the candidate has managed to acces mark band 2.

*(b) Carbon is present in a wide variety of compounds in the carbon cycle. Describe how carbon is cycled in the environment. (6) he fossil fuels been of carbon which her the plants, treps take in for protien energy. An arinal the easts the problem the plants tees and the mom then sends ie. decomposing carbon well as it tuning into Cnto as aí the plants repeats it self. the Ehe that

Results Plus

The candidate has manged to get to band 2 as there is a method of removal of carbon dioxide by plants and a method of returning carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The response does lack a little clarity so overall this gains a mark of three.



Always choose the best method of presenting the information, for the carbon cycle an annotated diagram may be the best method.

Question 6 (a) (ii)

This was only accessed by the better candidates.

This was a challenging question at the end of the paper and was only accessed by the high end candidates

(ii) State the part of the brain that controls body temperature. (1))
Results Plus Examiner Comments	
This was a common misconception with this question where candidates did not read the question carefully and gave the name of controlling the body temperature rather than the part of the brain where it is controlled.	
Results Plus Examiner Tip	
Always read the question carefully and make sure you answer the question asked.	

Question 6 (b)

Most candidates were able to gain one mark here but often did not link the mechanism of heat loss with the way in which it was carried out.

There were several ways in which this question could be accessed but to gain the marks the candidate had to link the method of heat loss with how this method manages to either cool or heat the body.

(b) Describe one way in which the skin helps in the control of body temperature. (2)The skin acts as a layer which it doesn't let heat out but it also doesn't let leat in. xaminer Comments The candidate has gained one mark here but failed to state how sweating results in heat loss by the sweat evaporating off the skin removing heat with it. **Results**Plus **Examiner Tip** If the question is a describe question then the candidate must link together the way in which the body is cooled and how this is carried out. The candidate gained one mark here for mentioning sweat being released. (b) Describe one way in which the skin helps in the control of body temperature. (2) The skin helps by opening up and etting out the heat and sweat. This helps to instantly cool you down. esultsPlus **Examiner Comments** Although the candidate did not explain the mechanism of heat loss they mentioned the heat released but did not link this to

the heat being removed when the sweat evaporates.

Question 6 (c)

This question was aimed at the higher grade boundaries and has been very discriminating. Explain questions always need to be punctuated by scientific principles.

Many candidates failed to gain high marks in this question as they failed to link the temperature regulation with the role of enzymes.

(c) Explain why humans need to maintain their body temperature at 37 °C. (2) Inside the body, the ogais need to Stay at a wan, sleady temperature to hunctioning. **Examiner Comments** This candidate just repeated the question rather than answering this in the appropriate way. This is an explain question and so it must be punctuated by scientific principles. **Results**Plus

Examiner Tip

Whilst answering explain questions you must apply scientific principles to the answer and not give general answers.

Question 6 (d)

The six mark questions were generally accessed well by candidates with the majority scoring in band 1 or 2 gaining marks one to four. Questions can be answered with the help of diagrams or flow charts to punctuate the prose.

The question is about vasodilation and vasoconstriction however the candidates do not have to use these terms to access the mark bands, a description of the terms is sufficient. To gain mark band 3 the candidate must mention the method of heat loss by radiation or convection.

*(d) Explain how changes in the volume of blood going through the skin help to alive. maintain body temperature. (6) (vaso yor IF there is more blood near to the skins surfac the blood will cool down because the heat to from the blood is being transferred the environment, maintaining the 37°c temperature IF there is less blood near to the skins surface (vaso construction) the bloods heat won't transfer into the cnuironment, Keeping the blood at 37°C. This happens when we are too cold. * This happens when we are too hot. **lesults**Plus **Examiner Comments** This response clearly describes both vasodilation and vasoconstriction but does not mention the method of heat loss so clearly in band 2. The answer flows and is written with clarity so the candidate gains four marks.



Try to put as much detail in as you can in the six mark questions but be careful not to put in wrong science as this can move you to the bottom of the band. The candidate has given a brief description of both vasodilation and vasoconstriction even though the words are not mentioned.

*(d) Explain how changes in the volume of blood going through the skin help to maintain body temperature. (6) the body is to warm then brood vesserse diarate the rise near the Surface Room and SKin Ehe more alowing IOSt. be 10 the 6100d 0101 Fher Qo away CONSERICT and the 1 hore Prevent 10 760 HISCIVE FG and neat.



The candidate has accessed mark band 2 but because the answer does not flow and the spelling and grammar is weak the candidate only attains three marks.



When writing the six mark questions try to structure the answer before starting to write, to ensure that it is clear and coherent. Remember spelling, punctuation and grammar at all times.

Paper Summary

Question 1 on pollution performed well but the four mark question on eutrophication held some problems for the less able candidates. Question 2 on genetics showed that the majority of candidates are able to draw good Punnett squares and draw conclusions on genetic diagrams. Question 3 caused some problems especially in calculating percentages on different trophic levels. Question 4 had candidates showing good data handling skills but the question about evolution was only accessed by the more able candidates. Question 5 again shows the candidates have skill in graph interpretation but many failed to note the changes within the year were seasonal. Question 6 had some higher demand questions which were accessed by the most able but the link between enzymes and the regulation of body temperature was only picked up by a few.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx

Further copies of this publication are available from Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467 Fax 01623 450481 Email <u>publication.orders@edexcel.com</u> Order Code UG029799 November 2011

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel.com/quals

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828 with its registered office at Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE





Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government

