

2.10 The Origins of Cell Compartmentalization

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS endosymbiotic theory 内共生学说 • mitochondria 线粒体 • organelles 细胞器
• chloroplasts 叶绿体 • nucleus 细胞核

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **origins of cell compartmentalization** — the endosymbiotic theory.

You must be able to:

- state the **endosymbiotic theory** 内共生学说
- give the evidence (own DNA, double membrane, own ribosomes, binary fission)
- identify which organelles it explains

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later — follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

■ The endosymbiotic theory

Mitochondria and **chloroplasts** are thought to have originated when a larger cell **engulfed** a free-living prokaryote, which then lived inside it (**endosymbiosis**) rather than being digested.

■ The evidence

- they have their **own DNA** (circular, like bacteria);
- they have their **own ribosomes**;
- they are surrounded by a **double membrane**;
- they reproduce by **binary fission**, like bacteria.

■ Which organelles

The theory explains **mitochondria** (from an aerobic bacterium) and **chloroplasts** (from a photosynthetic bacterium) — both double-membraned, DNA-containing organelles.

■ **A worked reasoning**

A mitochondrion's own circular DNA and ability to divide independently are strong signs it descended from a once free-living bacterium.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 Which two organelles does the endosymbiotic theory explain? [2]

2.2 State one piece of evidence for the theory. [1]

2.3 How do mitochondria reproduce? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Evidence that mitochondria were once free-living bacteria includes that they have [1]

A	B
C	D

A no DNA

B their own circular DNA and ribosomes

C a single membrane only

D the same DNA as the nucleus

3.2 A student examines a chloroplast.

(a) State two features that support the endosymbiotic theory. [2]

(b) Explain what the theory proposes about the chloroplast's origin. [2]

3.3 Explain why having its own DNA and dividing by binary fission suggests a mitochondrion had a bacterial ancestor. [2]