

Question 3: Scientific Investigation**4 points**

Researchers hypothesize that the plant compound resveratrol improves mitochondrial function. To test this hypothesis, researchers dissolve resveratrol in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The solution readily passes through cell membranes. They add the resveratrol solution to mammalian muscle cells growing in a nutrient-rich solution (culture medium) that contains glucose. They measure ATP production at several time points after the addition of the resveratrol solution and find an increase in ATP production by the muscle cells.

(a) **Describe** the primary advantage for a mammalian muscle cell in using aerobic respiration over fermentation. **1 point**

- More ATP (per glucose molecule) is produced by aerobic respiration.

(b) **Identify** an appropriate negative control for this experiment that would allow the researchers to conclude that ATP is produced in response to the resveratrol treatment. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- The researchers must run the experiment without adding resveratrol.
- The researchers must treat the cells with DMSO alone.

(c) **Predict** the effect on short-term ATP production when resveratrol-treated mammalian muscle cells are grown in a culture medium that lacks glucose or other sugars. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- No ATP production
- Reduced ATP production

(d) The researchers find that resveratrol stimulates the production of components of the electron transport chain. The researchers claim that treatment with resveratrol will also increase oxygen consumption by the cells if glucose is not limiting. **Justify** the claim. **1 point**

- More electrons can be transferred so that more oxygen is required as the final electron acceptor.

Total for question 3 4 points

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Question 7

Many species of bacteria grow in the mouths of animals and can form biofilms on teeth (plaque). Within plaque, the outer layers contain high levels of oxygen and the layers closest to the tooth contain low levels of oxygen. The surface of the tooth is covered in a hard layer of enamel, which can be dissolved under acidic conditions. When the enamel breaks down, the bacteria in plaque can extract nutrients from the tooth and cause cavities.

Certain types of bacteria (e.g., *Streptococcus mutans*) thrive in the innermost anaerobic layers of the plaque and are associated with cavities. Other types of bacteria (*Streptococcus sanguinis*) compete with *S. mutans* but are unable to thrive in acidic environments.

(a) **Identify** the biochemical pathway *S. mutans* uses for metabolizing sugar and **describe** how the pathway contributes to the low pH in the inner layers of plaque. **(2 points; both points must be earned from the same row.)**

Identification	Description
fermentation	(lactic) acid/lactate
anaerobic respiration	acid
glycolysis	(pyruvic) acid/pyruvate

(b) Normal tooth brushing effectively removes much of the plaque from the flat surfaces of teeth but cannot reach the surfaces between teeth. Many commercial toothpastes contain alkaline components, which raise the pH of the mouth. **Predict** how the population sizes of *S. mutans* AND *S. sanguinis* in the bacterial community in the plaque between the teeth are likely to change when these toothpastes are used. **(1 point)**

Prediction (1 point)

- *S. mutans* decreases AND *S. sanguinis* increases