

Question 2: Interpreting and Evaluating Experimental Results with Graphing

9 points

Many insects rely on pheromones (chemical signals) that are released by the females to find mating partners. Scientists hypothesize that, in a certain type of moth, the behavior of male moths in response to pheromones is regulated by the extracellular signaling molecule 20E.

To investigate whether the binding of 20E to its receptor, DopEcR, affects behavior in moths, scientists injected male moths with saline (control solution) or with small interfering RNA molecules (siRNAs) that inhibit the expression of the gene encoding DopEcR. The scientists then exposed the moths to the pheromone and determined the percent of total time observed that the moths engaged in general activity, defined as movement in any direction. The scientists also determined the percent of the general activity time that the moths spent in oriented activity, defined as movement toward an area of high pheromone concentration (Table 1).

Table 1. Average General and Oriented Activity in Male Moths Injected With Saline or siRNA Molecules

Treatment	General Activity (percent of total time observed, average $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$)	Oriented Activity (percent of general activity, average $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$)
Male moths injected with saline (control solution)	95 ± 5	60 ± 4
Male moths injected with siRNAs that inhibit expression of the gene encoding DopEcR	90 ± 8	25 ± 6

DopEcR is a G protein-coupled receptor. When 20E binds to DopEcR, GTP displaces the GDP bound to the G protein, and a signaling pathway is activated. The scientists hypothesize that this leads to the transcription of genes associated with the oriented activity observed in the male moths (Figure 1).

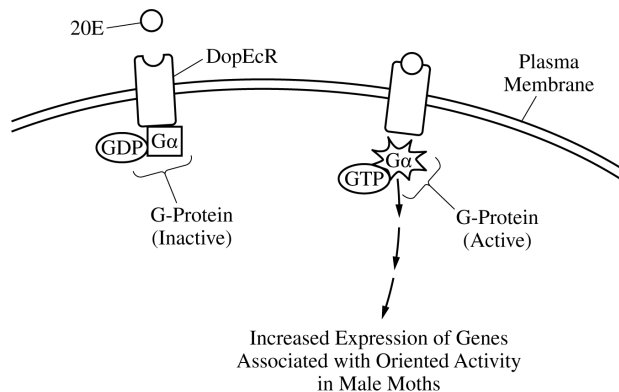


Figure 1. A simplified model of a signaling pathway activated by the binding of 20E to its receptor, DopEcR

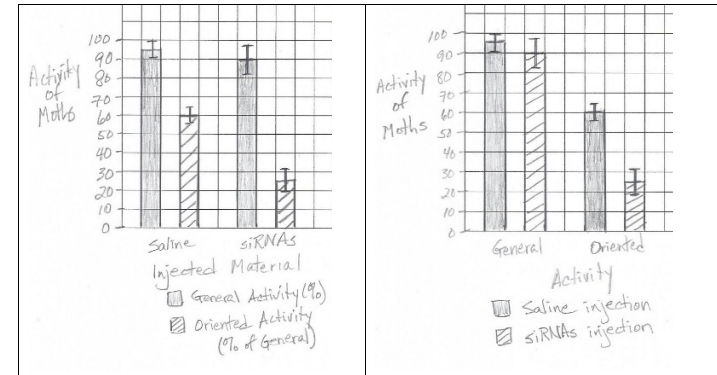
A Many receptors are embedded in the plasma membrane. **Describe** the polarity of the portion of the receptor that is inside the membrane. **Point A1**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- (The portion of the receptor inside the membrane) is nonpolar.
- (The portion of the receptor inside the membrane) is hydrophobic.

B (i) Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriate type of graph that represents the data in Table 1. Your graph should be appropriately plotted and labeled. **Point B1**

- Data are represented in a bar/modified bar graph.
- Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:



(i) Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriate type of graph that represents the data in Table 1. Your graph should be appropriately plotted and labeled. **Point B2**

- Data and error bars are accurately plotted.

(i) Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriate type of graph that represents the data in Table 1. Your graph should be appropriately plotted and labeled. **Point B3**

- Graph is appropriately labeled.

(ii) Based on the data in Table 1, **determine** the type of activity that was affected by inhibiting the expression of the DopEcR receptor. **Point B4**

- Oriented activity (was affected).

- C** (i) Based on Table 1, identify the treatment group in which the oriented activity was greater than 50% of the general activity. **Point C1**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The control/saline-treated group
- Male moths injected with saline/control solution

- (ii) The scientists studied some moths with a mutation in the gene encoding the G protein. **Point C2**
The mutation prevents GTP from displacing the GDP bound to the G protein. Based on Figure 1, **predict** the effect of this mutation on the oriented activity in male moths exposed to the pheromone.

- (The moths will show) decreased (oriented) activity.

- D** (i) Expression of the gene encoding DopEcR is low in the male moths during their first few days as adults, when they are sexually immature. Gene expression rapidly increases as the moths reach sexual maturity. The scientists claim that this increase in gene expression increases the likelihood of males finding females with whom to mate. Use evidence from the information provided to **support** the scientists' claim. **Point D1**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- (Increased expression of DopEcR) will increase oriented activity (and the moths' ability to find a mate).
- (An increase in DopEcR expression) will enable the binding of 20E to more receptors.
- (An increase in DopEcR expression) will make the males more sensitive to pheromones from the females.
- (An increase in DopEcR expression) will enable the binding of 20E to more receptors and will make the males more sensitive to pheromones from the females.

- (ii) Based on Figure 1, **explain** how an inhibitor of the DopEcR pathway might serve as an effective chemical to protect crops from moth damage. **Point D2**

- (An inhibitor of the pathway) will reduce oriented activity/expression of genes associated with oriented activity and therefore decrease mating/population growth.

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Question 1

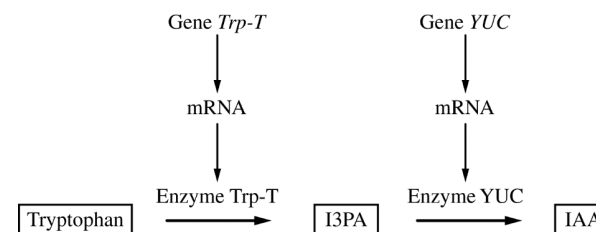


Figure 1. Model of two-step enzymatic plant pathway for synthesis of IAA from tryptophan

Auxins are plant hormones that coordinate several aspects of root growth and development. Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) is an auxin that is usually synthesized from the amino acid tryptophan (Figure 1). Gene *Trp-T* encodes an enzyme that converts tryptophan to indole-3-pyruvic acid (I3PA), which is then converted to IAA by an enzyme encoded by the gene *YUC*.

- (a) **Circle** ONE arrow that represents transcription on the template pathway. **Identify** the molecule that would be absent if enzyme YUC is nonfunctional.

Circle (1 point)

- Circle around either arrow pointing from a gene (*Trp-T* or *YUC*) to mRNA

Identification (1 point)

- IAA

- (b) **Predict** how the deletion of one base pair in the fourth codon of the coding region of gene *Trp-T* would most likely affect the production of IAA. **Justify** your prediction.

Prediction (1 point)

- Reduction in IAA production OR No production of IAA

Justification (1 point)

- The mutation will result in the translation of an inactive/nonfunctional Trp-T enzyme.
- The mutation will result in no translation of the Trp-T enzyme.
- The mutation will result in no/reduced production of I3PA.

- (c) **Explain** one feedback mechanism by which a cell could prevent production of too much IAA without limiting I3PA production.

Explanation (2 points)

- Negative feedback/feedback inhibition/increasing amounts of IAA inhibits the pathway.
- Production of YUC enzyme is inhibited OR YUC enzyme activity is inhibited.

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Question 1 (continued)

- (d) Rhizobacteria are a group of bacteria that live in nodules on plant roots. Rhizobacteria can produce IAA and convert atmospheric nitrogen into forms that can be used by plants. Plants release carbon-containing molecules into the nodules. Based on this information, **identify** the most likely ecological relationship between plants and rhizobacteria. **Describe** ONE advantage to the bacteria of producing IAA.

Identification (1 point)

- Mutualism

Description (1 point)

- Increases habitat/number of nodules for the rhizobacteria.
- The bacteria receive carbon/carbon-containing molecules (as a result of increased plant growth).

- (e) A researcher removed a plant nodule and identified several “cheater” rhizobacteria that do not produce IAA or fix nitrogen. **Describe** the evolutionary advantage of being a bacterial cheater in a population composed predominantly of noncheater bacteria. Plants can adjust the amount of carbon-containing molecules released into nodules in response to the amount of nitrogen fixed in the nodule. **Predict** the change in the bacterial population that would cause the plant to reduce the amount of carbon-containing molecules provided to the nodule.

Description (1 point)

- Cheaters/bacteria that benefit without producing IAA/fixing nitrogen have more energy for reproduction.

Prediction (1 point)

- Decrease in the nitrogen-fixing/noncheater bacteria
- Decrease in the amount of nitrogen fixed (by bacteria)

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Question 2

A student studying two different aquatic, plant-eating, unicellular protist species (species A and B) designed an experiment to investigate the ecological relationship between the two species (Table 1).

TABLE 1. EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT GROUPS

Group I.	Species A and B are each grown in separate containers.
Group II.	Species A and B are grown together in the same container.

In treatment group I, the student placed 10 individuals of species A into a container with liquid growth medium and 10 individuals of species B into a separate container with an equal amount of the same liquid growth medium. In treatment group II, the student placed 5 individuals of each species into a single container with the liquid growth medium. The student then maintained the containers under the same environmental conditions and recorded the number of individuals in each population at various time points. The results are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN EACH PROTIST POPULATION IN BOTH TREATMENT GROUPS

Time (h)	Group I. Grown Separately		Group II. Grown Together	
	Species A	Species B	Species A	Species B
0	10	10	5	5
10	100	50	45	20
20	400	200	100	50
30	1100	500	250	25
40	1400	650	525	20
50	1500	700	900	10
60	1500	700	1250	0
70	1500	700	1400	0

- (a) The growth curves for species B in group I and for species A in group II (shaded columns) have been plotted on the template. Use the template to **complete** an appropriately labeled line graph to illustrate the growth of species A in treatment group I and species B in treatment group II (unshaded columns).

Completion (3 points)

- Correctly plotted lines for remaining two treatments
- Correctly labeled axes including units
- Correctly labeled data lines

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Question 2 (continued)

(b) As shown in the table, the researcher established treatment group II with 5 individuals of each species. **Provide reasoning** for the reduced initial population sizes.

Reasoning (1 point)

- Reduced initial population sizes keep the total number of organisms the same in all containers.
- Reduced initial population sizes serve as a control for population density.

(c) The student claims that species A and B compete for the same food source. **Provide TWO pieces of evidence** from the data that support the student's claim.

Evidence (1 point per row; 2 points max.)

Comparison of Groups	Evidence
I-A to II-A	• Growth rate is faster in I/slower in II
I-A to II-A	• Grows to a higher population density in I/lower population density in II
I-B to II-B	• Growth rate is faster in I/slower in II
I-B to II-B	• Grows to a higher population density in I/lower population density in II/ II dies out/II goes to zero

(d) **Predict TWO** factors that most likely limit the population growth of species A in treatment group I.

Prediction (2 points)

Acceptable factors include:

- Food
- Space
- Metabolic waste
- Dissolved oxygen

(e) Many protists contain an organelle called a contractile vacuole that pumps water out of the cell. The student repeated the experiment using a growth medium with a lower solute concentration. **Predict** how the activity of the contractile vacuole will change under the new experimental conditions. **Justify** your prediction.

Prediction (1 point)

- The contractile vacuole will be more active.

Justification (1 point)

- The environment is hypotonic with respect to the cell.
- The cell is hypertonic with respect to environment.
- Water has entered the cell (which could cause lysis).
- The cell has lower water potential than the environment/the environment has higher water potential than the cell.

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Question 3

The pyruvate dehydrogenase complex (PDC) catalyzes the conversion of pyruvate to acetyl-CoA, a substrate for the Krebs (citric acid) cycle. The rate of pyruvate conversion is greatly reduced in individuals with PDC deficiency, a rare disorder.

(a) **Identify** the cellular location where PDC is most active.

Identification (1 point)

- Mitochondria
- Mitochondrial matrix

(b) **Make a claim** about how PDC deficiency affects the amount of NADH produced by glycolysis AND the amount of NADH produced by the Krebs (citric acid) cycle in a cell. **Provide reasoning** to support your claims based on the position of the PDC-catalyzed reaction in the sequence of the cellular respiration pathway.

(1 point per row; 2 points max.)

	Claim	Reasoning
Glycolysis	No change	• Glycolysis continues; PDC is not needed. • Glycolysis occurs before conversion of pyruvate to acetyl-CoA.
Krebs cycle	Decrease	• The Krebs cycle is greatly reduced/slowed down if there is no/less acetyl-CoA. • The Krebs cycle occurs after conversion of pyruvate to acetyl-CoA.

(c) PDC deficiency is caused by mutations in the *PDHA1* gene, which is located on the X chromosome. A male with PDC deficiency and a homozygous female with no family history of PDC deficiency have a male offspring. **Calculate** the probability that the male offspring will have PDC deficiency.

Calculation (1 point)

- The probability of inheritance is 0.
- The offspring cannot/will not have PDC deficiency.

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Question 4

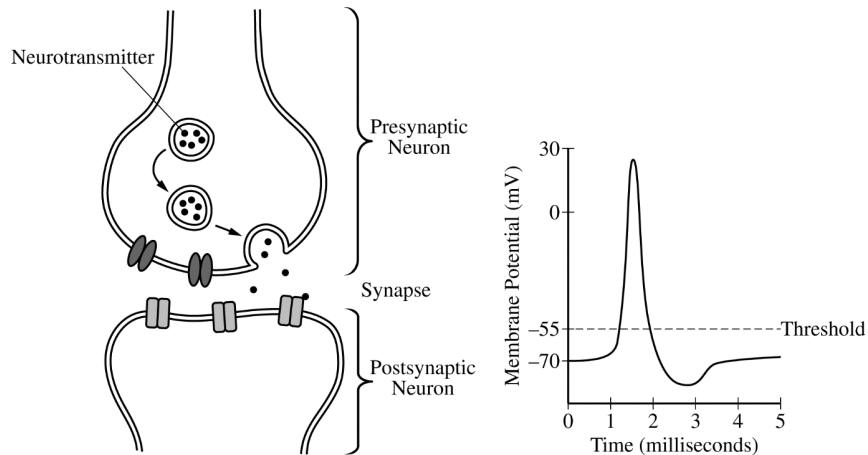


Figure 1. Release of neurotransmitters into the synapse in response to an action potential

Figure 2. Model of a typical action potential in a neuron

Acetylcholine is a neurotransmitter that can activate an action potential in a postsynaptic neuron (Figures 1 and 2). A researcher is investigating the effect of a particular neurotoxin that causes the amount of acetylcholine released from presynaptic neurons to increase.

(a) **Describe** the immediate effect of the neurotoxin on the number of action potentials in a postsynaptic neuron. **Predict** whether the maximum membrane potential of the postsynaptic neuron will increase, decrease, or stay the same.

Description (1 point)

- It will increase the number of action potentials.

Prediction (1 point)

- It will stay the same.

(b) The researcher proposes two models, A and B, for using acetylcholinesterase (AChE), an enzyme that degrades acetylcholine, to prevent the effect of the neurotoxin. In model A, AChE is added to the synapse. In model B, AChE is added to the cytoplasm of the postsynaptic cell. **Predict** the effectiveness of EACH proposed model. **Provide reasoning** to support your predictions.

(1 point per row; 2 points max.)

	Prediction	Reasoning
Model A	Effective	Acetylcholine is in the synapse.
Model B	Not effective	Acetylcholine is not in the cytoplasm of the postsynaptic cell.

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Question 5

TABLE 1. DIVERGENCE (IN PERCENT) OF MITOCHONDRIAL DNA SEQUENCES AMONG FIVE PRIMATE SPECIES

	Human	Gorilla	Orangutan	Gibbon	Chimpanzee
Human	-	10.3	16.1	18.1	8.8
Gorilla		-	16.7	18.9	10.6
Orangutan			-	18.9	17.2
Gibbon				-	18.9
Chimpanzee					-

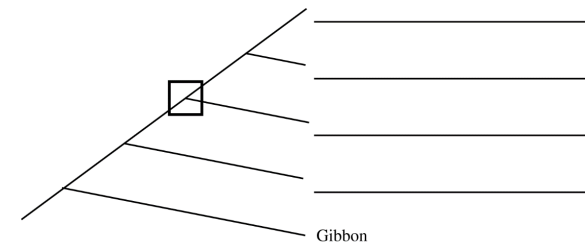
A researcher studying the evolutionary relationship among five primate species obtained data from a sequence of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from a representative individual of each species. The researcher then calculated the percent divergence in the sequences between each pair of primate species (Table 1).

(a) Based on fossil data, the researcher estimates that humans and their most closely related species in the data set diverged approximately seven million years ago. Using these data, **calculate** the rate of mtDNA percent divergence per million years between humans and their most closely related species in the data set. Round your answer to two decimal places.

Calculation (1 point)

- 1.25 OR 1.26

(b) Using the data in the table, **construct** a cladogram on the template provided. **Provide reasoning** for the placement of gibbons as the outgroup on the cladogram.



Construction (1 point)

- From top to bottom: Human/Chimpanzee (interchangeable), Gorilla, Orangutan

Reasoning (1 point)

- Gibbon mtDNA is the least similar (to all of the other species)/most different (from all of the other species).
- Gibbon mtDNA is the most divergent (from all of the other species).

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Question 5 (continued)

(c) On the cladogram, **draw** a circle around all of the species that are descended from the species indicated by the node within the square.

Circle (1 point)

- Circle species 1, 2, and 3, as numbered from the top.

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Question 6

	MEDIUM	STRAINS		
		Wild Type	Mutant 1	Mutant 2
Treatment I	All amino acids present	+	+	+
Treatment II	No amino acids present	+	–	–
Treatment III	All amino acids present EXCEPT methionine	+	–	+
Treatment IV	All amino acids present EXCEPT leucine	+	+	–

Table 1. The data show the growth of haploid *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast strains on media that differ in amino acid content. A plus sign (+) indicates that the yeast strains grow, and a minus sign (–) indicates that the strains do not grow.

The yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is a single-celled organism. Amino acid synthesis in yeast cells occurs through metabolic pathways, and enzymes in the synthesis pathways are encoded by different genes. The synthesis of a particular amino acid can be prevented by mutation of a gene encoding an enzyme in the required pathway.

A researcher conducted an experiment to determine the ability of yeast to grow on media that differ in amino acid content. Yeast can grow as both haploid and diploid cells. The researcher tested two different haploid yeast strains (Mutant 1 and Mutant 2), each of which has a single recessive mutation, and a haploid wild-type strain. The resulting data are shown in Table 1.

(a) **Identify** the role of treatment I in the experiment.

Identification (1 point)

- (Positive) control (for yeast growth).
- To test the viability of all yeast strains.
- Treatment I allows the researcher to be confident that changes in experimental outcome are due to differences in treatments.

(b) **Provide reasoning** to explain how Mutant 1 can grow on treatment I medium but cannot grow on treatment III medium.

Reasoning (1 point)

- Mutant 1 can use methionine when it is present in the medium, but Mutant 1 cannot synthesize methionine.

(c) Yeast mate by fusing two haploid cells to make a diploid cell. In a second experiment, the researcher mates the Mutant 1 and Mutant 2 haploid strains to produce diploid cells. Using the table provided, **predict** whether the diploid cells will grow on each of the four media. Use a plus sign (+) to indicate growth and a minus sign (–) to indicate no growth.

Prediction (1 Point)

- There will be growth (+) in all four cells of the fourth column.

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Question 7

A researcher is studying patterns of gene expression in mice. The researcher collected samples from six different tissues in a healthy mouse and measured the amount of mRNA from six genes. The data are shown in Figure 1.

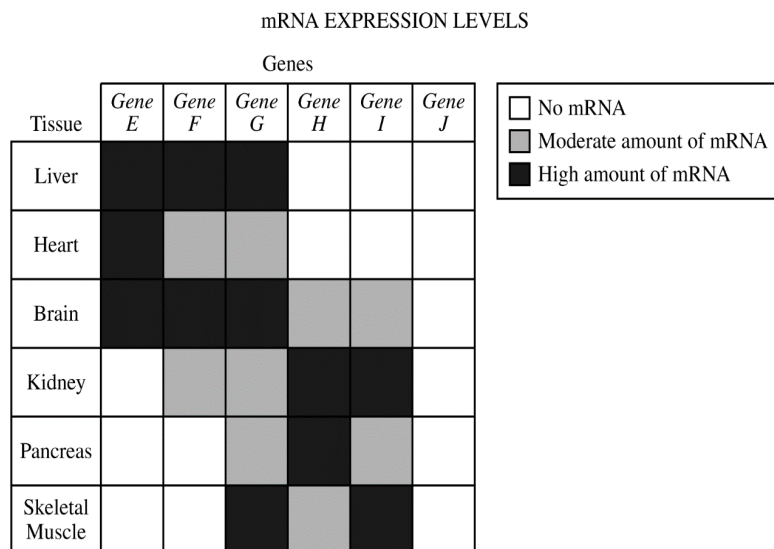


Figure 1. mRNA expression levels of six genes

(a) Based on the data provided, **identify** the gene that is most likely to encode a protein that is an essential component of glycolysis. **Provide reasoning** to support your identification.

Identification (1 point)

- Gene G

Reasoning (1 point)

- (Gene G) is the only gene expressed in all (six) tissues, AND glycolysis occurs in all (six) tissues.
- (Gene G) mRNA is the only mRNA present in all (six) tissues, AND glycolysis occurs in all (six) tissues.

(b) The researcher observed that tissues with a high level of *gene H* mRNA did not always have gene H protein. **Provide reasoning** to explain how tissues with high *gene H* mRNA levels can have no gene H protein.

Reasoning (1 point)

- The mRNA is not exported from the nucleus.
- Gene H mRNA is not translated/RNA interference prevent(s) translation.
- Post-transcriptional modifications.

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Question 8

TABLE 1. CHANGES IN MORNING GLORY PETAL CELLS DURING FLOWER OPENING

	BUD	OPEN FLOWER
Vacuole pH	6.6	7.7
Flower Color	Red	Blue
Cell Volume	Small	Large

The petal color of the Mexican morning glory (*Ipomoea tricolor*) changes from red to blue, and the petal cells swell during flower opening. The pigment heavenly blue anthocyanin is found in the vacuole of petal cells. Petal color is determined by the pH of the vacuole. A model of a morning glory petal cell before and after flower opening is shown in Table 1.

(a) **Identify** the cellular component in the model that is responsible for the increase in the pH of the vacuole during flower opening AND **describe** the component's role in changing the pH of the vacuole.

Identification (1 point)

- (K^+ / H^+) transport protein

Description (1 point)

- It moves H^+ out of the vacuole.

(b) A researcher claims that the activation of the K^+ / H^+ transport protein causes the vacuole to swell with water. **Provide reasoning** to support the researcher's claim.

Reasoning (1 point)

- The concentration of solute (K^+) is increasing inside the vacuole.
- The solute (K^+) is moving into the vacuole, making it hypertonic/hyperosmotic/lowering water potential.

AP Biology

Scoring Guidelines

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Question 1

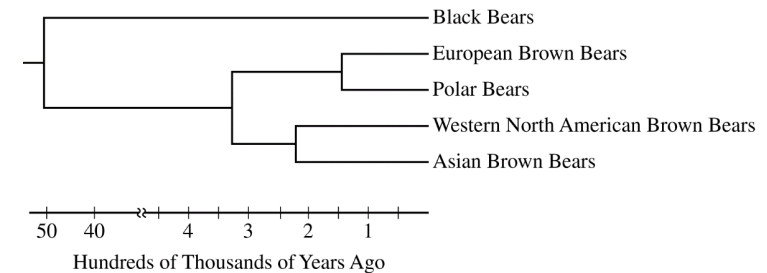


Figure 1. Phylogenetic tree representing the evolutionary relatedness among bear populations based on mitochondrial DNA sequence comparisons

Polar bears are highly adapted for life in cold climates around the North Pole. Brown bears, black bears, and pandas are found in warmer environments. Researchers collected complete mitochondrial DNA sequences from several populations of bears and constructed a phylogenetic tree to represent their evolutionary relatedness (Figure 1).

A researcher studying adaptation in bears sequenced the nuclear gene encoding a lysosomal trafficking protein (LYST) in polar bears, brown bears, black bears, and panda bears. There are seven inferred amino acid substitutions that are found only in polar bears. Mutations that cause similar substitutions in the human LYST protein are associated with Chediak-Higashi syndrome, an autosomal recessive condition in which pigment is absent from the hair and eyes. The researcher used the inferred amino acid sequences to build the distance matrix shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. AMINO ACID DIFFERENCES IN THE LYST PROTEIN AMONG BEAR SPECIES

	Panda	Black	Brown	Polar
Panda	–			
Black	33	–		
Brown	34	1	–	
Polar	40	7	8	–

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Question 1 (continued)

- (a) Use the phylogenetic tree in Figure 1 to **estimate** the age in hundreds of thousands of years of the most recent common ancestor of all brown bears. **Identify** the population of brown bears to which polar bears are most closely related based on the mitochondrial DNA sequence comparison. **Identify** two populations whose positions could be switched without affecting the relationships illustrated in the phylogenetic tree.

Estimate (1 point)

- First two digits of the answer must be between 30 and 35.

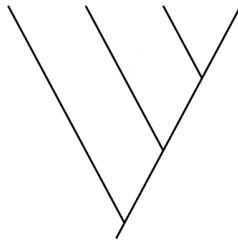
Identification (1 point)

- European

Identification (1 point)

- European/Polar OR Asian/Western (North American)

- (b) **Construct** a cladogram on the template to represent a model of the evolutionary relatedness among the bear species based on the differences in LYST protein sequences (Table 1). **Circle** the position on the cladogram that represents the out-group.

**Construction (1 point)**

- Correctly illustrated evolutionary relationship among the four species

Circling (1 point)

- Correctly circled out-group based on orientation of cladogram

- (c) A student claims that mitochondrial DNA sequence comparisons provide a more accurate phylogeny of bear species than do LYST protein sequence comparisons. **Provide ONE piece of reasoning** to support the student's claim.

Reasoning (1 point)

- Genes show more variability (in nucleotide sequence) than proteins do (in amino acid sequences).
- mtDNA genome contains multiple genes vs. one *lyst* gene.
- The phenotype associated with the *lyst* gene is under strong selection.

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Question 1 (continued)

- (d) A researcher genetically engineers a mouse strain by deleting the mouse *lyst* gene and replacing it with the polar bear *lyst* gene. **Predict** the most likely difference in phenotype of the transgenic mouse strain compared to the wild-type mouse strain. **Justify** your prediction.

Prediction (1 point)

- Mouse fur and/or eyes will not have pigment/will have reduced pigment.
- Mouse (fur) will be white/lighter.

Justification (1 point)

- Polar bear *lyst* gene/LYST protein is associated with a lack of pigment/white hair.
- Mutated human *lyst* gene/ LYST protein is associated with a lack of pigment in hair and eyes.

- (e) **Describe** how the mutation in the *lyst* gene became common in the polar bear population. If the *lyst* gene were the only determinant of fur color, **predict** the percent of white offspring produced by a mating between a polar bear and a brown bear.

Description (1 point)

- Natural selection for the white fur phenotype

Prediction (1 point)

- 0%

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Question 2

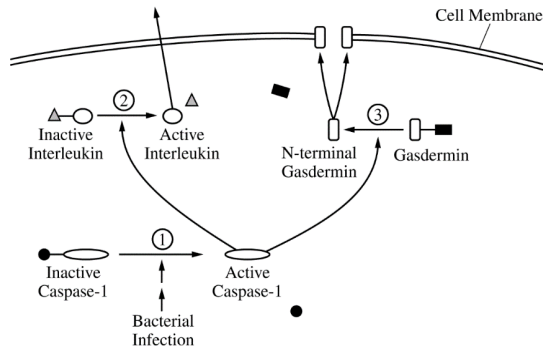


Figure 1. Cellular response to infection by pathogenic bacteria

Some pathogenic bacteria enter cells, replicate, and spread to other cells, causing illness in the host organism. Host cells respond to these infections in a number of ways, one of which involves activating particular enzymatic pathways (Figure 1). Cells normally produce a steady supply of inactive caspase-1 protein. In response to intracellular pathogens, the inactive caspase-1 is cleaved and forms an active caspase-1 (step 1). Active caspase-1 can cleave two other proteins. When caspase-1 cleaves an inactive interleukin (step 2), the active portion of the interleukin is released from the cell. An interleukin is a signaling molecule that can activate the immune response. When caspase-1 cleaves gasdermin (step 3), the N-terminal portions of several gasdermin proteins associate in the cell membrane to form large, nonspecific pores.

Researchers created the model in Figure 1 using data from cell fractionation studies. In the experiments, various parts of the cell were separated into fractions by mechanical and chemical methods. Specific proteins known to be located in different parts of the cell were used as markers to determine the location of other proteins. The table below shows the presence of known proteins in specific cellular fractions.

CELL FRACTIONS CONTAINING DIFFERENT CELLULAR PROTEINS

	Aconitase (Krebs cycle protein)	DNA polymerase	GAPDH (glycolytic protein)	Sodium- potassium pump	NF- κ B (Immune response protein)
Whole cell sample	+	+	+	+	+
Fraction 1	+				
Fraction 2		+			+
Fraction 3			+		+
Fraction 4				+	

+ = presence of protein

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Question 2 (continued)

- (a) **Describe** the effect of inhibiting step 3 on the formation of pores AND on the release of interleukin from the cell.

Description (2 points)

- Pores will not form.
- Interleukin release will not be affected/interleukin release continues.

- (b) **Make a claim** about how cleaving inactive caspase-1 results in activation of caspase-1. A student claims that preinfection production of inactive precursors shortens the response time of a cell to a bacterial infection. **Provide ONE reason** to support the student's claim.

Claim (1 point)

- Removes inhibitor/repressor/inhibitory domain of protein
- Changes the shape/protein structure

Reasoning (1 point)

- Cleaving a precursor/protein/molecule is faster than making one upon infection.
- Cells do not have to wait for transcription and translation/protein synthesis.

- (c) A student claims that the NF- κ B protein is located in the cytoplasm until the protein is needed for transcription. **Justify** the student's claim with evidence. **Identify TWO** fractions where N-terminal gasdermin would be found in cells infected with pathogenic bacteria.

Justification (1 point)

- NF- κ B and glycolytic enzymes/GAPDH are found together (in the cytoplasm).

Identification (2 points)

- Fraction 3
- Fraction 4

- (d) **Describe** the most likely effect of gasdermin pore formation on water balance in the cell in a hypotonic environment.

Description (1 point)

- Water enters the cell.

- (e) **Explain** how gasdermin pore formation AND interleukin release contribute to an organism's defense against a bacterial pathogen.

Explanation (2 points)

- Cell lysis destroys infected cells OR cell lysis prevents bacteria from replicating.
- Interleukin signaling will stimulate immune cells/components of the immune system (to destroy the infected cells or bacteria).

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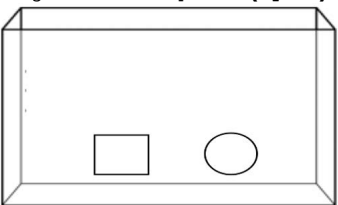
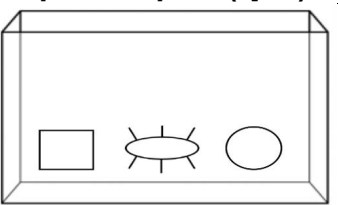
Question 3

Seagrasses are aquatic plants that reproduce sexually. Male seagrass flowers produce sticky pollen that is carried by circulating water to female flowers, resulting in fertilization. A researcher claims that mobile aquatic invertebrates can also transfer pollen from male to female flowers in the absence of circulating water. To investigate this claim, the researcher set up aquariums to model the possible interactions between the invertebrates and seagrasses.

- (a) Use the symbols below and the template aquariums to demonstrate the experimental design for testing the researcher's claim that mobile aquatic invertebrates can pollinate seagrass in the absence of circulating water. **Draw** the appropriate symbols in the negative control aquarium AND the experimental aquarium. Do not use any symbol more than once in the same aquarium.

Male Flower	Female Flower	Invertebrates
		

Drawing (2 points)

Negative Control Aquarium (1 point)	Experimental Aquarium (1 point)
	

- (b) **Identify** the dependent variable in the experiment. **Predict** the experimental results that would support the researcher's claim that mobile aquatic invertebrates can also transfer pollen from male to female flowers in the absence of circulating water.

Identification (1 point maximum)	Prediction (1 point maximum)
Number/presence of pollen grains on female flowers OR pollination	More pollen grains transferred/pollination seen in experimental aquarium
Number/presence of fertilized plants/flowers OR fertilization	More fertilized plants/flowers/fertilization seen in experimental aquarium
Number/presence of seed/fruit/offspring produced OR reproduction	More seeds/fruits/offspring produced/reproduction in experimental aquarium

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Question 4

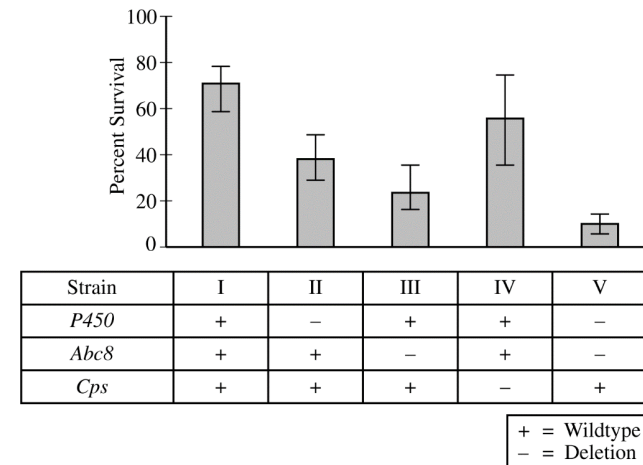


Figure 1. Percent survival of five strains of bedbugs treated with beta-cyfluthrin. A (+) indicates the gene is present; a (-) indicates the gene is deleted. Error bars represent the 95% confidence interval.

The common bedbug (*Cimex lectularius*) is a species of insect that is becoming increasingly resistant to insecticides. Bedbugs possess several genes suspected of contributing to the resistance, including *P450*, *Abc8*, and *Cps*. To investigate the role of these genes in insecticide resistance, researchers deleted one or more of these genes in different strains of bedbugs, as indicated in Figure 1, and treated the strains with the insecticide beta-cyfluthrin. Each strain was genetically identical except for the deleted gene(s) and was equally fit in the absence of beta-cyfluthrin. The percent survival of each strain following beta-cyfluthrin treatment is shown in Figure 1.

- (a) **Identify** the control strain in the experiment. Use the means and confidence intervals in Figure 1 to **justify** the claim that *Abc8* is effective at providing resistance to beta-cyfluthrin.

Identification (1 point)

- Strain I

Justification (1 point)

- Error bars/CIs from strain I/control/WT do not overlap with strain III/*Abc8* deleted strain.
- Mean % survival of strain III/*Abc8* deletion falls outside the 95% confidence interval of strain I/control/WT.
- Strain III/*Abc8* deletion shows a statistically significant difference from strain I/control.

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Question 4 (continued)

- (b) *P450* encodes an enzyme that detoxifies insecticides. *Abc8* encodes a transporter protein that pumps insecticides out of cells. *Cps* encodes an external structural protein located in the exoskeleton that greatly reduces the absorption of insecticides. Based on this information and the data in Figure 1, **explain** how a deletion of both *P450* and *Abc8* results in lower survival in bedbugs compared with a deletion of *Cps* only.

Explanation (1 point per row; 2 points maximum)

Strain	<i>P450</i> and <i>Abc8</i>	<i>Cps</i> only	Explanation
V	Deleted	Present	Bedbugs can neither detoxify nor pump out insecticide, which results in a lower chance of bedbug survival.
IV	Present	Deleted	Bedbugs can detoxify and pump out insecticide, which results in a higher chance of bedbug survival.

2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

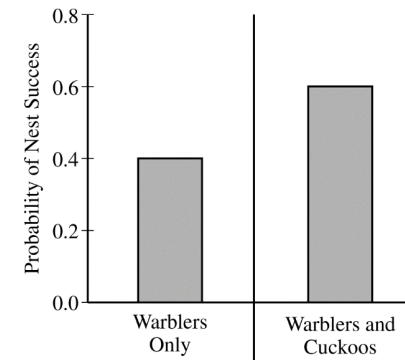


Figure 1. Probability of nest success in an environment with predators

Some birds, including great spotted cuckoos, lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, such as reed warblers. The warbler parents raise the unrelated chicks and provide them with food that would otherwise be given to their biological offspring. A researcher conducted an investigation to determine the type of relationship between warblers and cuckoos in an environment without predators. The researcher found that nests containing only warblers were more likely to be successful than nests containing warblers and cuckoos (data not shown). A successful nest is defined as a nest where at least one chick becomes an adult warbler.

In some geographic areas, several species of nest predators are present. Researchers have found that cuckoo chicks, while in the nest, produce a smelly substance that deters nest predators. The substance does not remain in the nest if cuckoo chicks are removed. Figure 1 shows the probability that nests containing only warblers or containing both warblers and cuckoos will be successful in an environment with predators. In a follow-up experiment, the researchers added cuckoos to a nest that contained only warblers (group 1) and removed cuckoos from a nest containing warblers and cuckoos (group 2).

- (a) **Describe** the symbiotic relationship that exists between the cuckoo and warbler in an environment without predators.

Description (1 point)

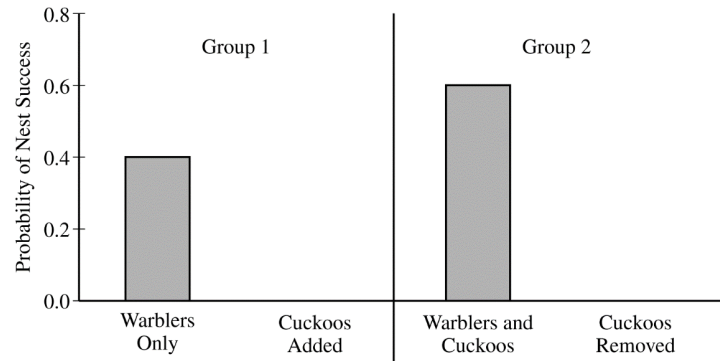
- Cuckoos are parasites (of the warbler).
- The cuckoo benefits from the relationship, and the warbler is harmed by the relationship.

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Question 5 (continued)

(b) On the template provided, **draw** bars in the appropriate locations to predict the relative probability of success for the nest in the presence of predators where:

- the cuckoos were added to the nest containing only warblers (group 1)
- the cuckoos were removed from the nest containing warblers and cuckoos (group 2)



Graph (2 points)

- Cuckoo added (group 1): Bar must be HIGHER than the “Warblers Only” bar.
- Cuckoo removed (group 2): Bar must be LOWER than the “Warblers and Cuckoos” bar.

(c) **Identify** the symbiotic relationship that exists between the cuckoo and the warbler in the presence of predators.

Identification (1 point)

- Mutualism
- Both organisms benefit

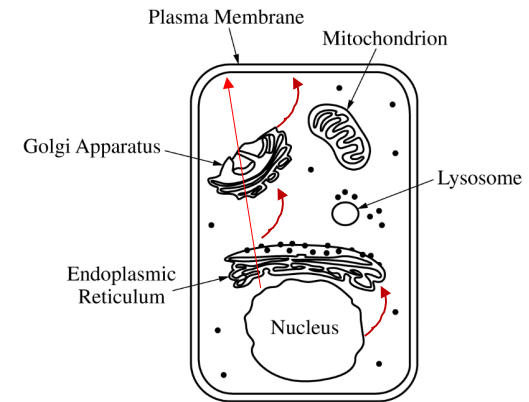
2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic condition that is associated with defects in the CFTR protein. The CFTR protein is a gated ion channel that requires ATP binding in order to allow chloride ions (Cl^-) to diffuse across the membrane.

(a) In the provided model of a cell, **draw** arrows to describe the pathway for production of a normal CFTR protein from gene expression to final cellular location.

Drawing (1 point)



The response must follow this pathway: nucleus/nuclear envelope → endoplasmic reticulum → Golgi apparatus → plasma membrane.

The response may be in the form of a continuous arrow or multiple discontinuous arrows.

(b) **Identify** the most likely cellular location of the ribosomes that synthesize CFTR protein.

Identification (1 point)

- (Rough) Endoplasmic Reticulum/ER

(c) **Identify** the most likely cellular location of a mutant CFTR protein that has an amino acid substitution in the ATP-binding site.

Identification (1 point)

- In the (cellular/plasma) membrane

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Question 7

In the tongue sole fish (*Cynoglossus semilaevis*), sex is determined by a combination of genetics and environmental temperature. Genetically male fish have two Z chromosomes (ZZ), and genetically female fish have one Z chromosome and one W chromosome (ZW). When fish are raised at 22°C, ZZ fish develop into phenotypic males and ZW fish develop into phenotypic females. However, when fish are raised at 28°C, the Z chromosome is modified (denoted as Z*). Z*W individuals develop as phenotypic males that are fertile and can pass on the Z* chromosome to their offspring even when the offspring are raised at 22°C. A cross between a ZW female and a Z*Z male is shown in the Punnett square below.

	Z	W
Z*	Z* Z	Z* W
Z	ZZ	ZW

- (a) **Predict** the percent of phenotypic males among the F₁ offspring of the cross shown in the Punnett square if the offspring are raised at 22°C.

Prediction (1 point)

75%

- (b) At least one Z or Z* chromosome is necessary for survival of the fish. A researcher crossed two fish and observed a 2:1 ratio of males to females among the offspring. Based on the information, **identify** the genotype of the male parent in the cross. **Describe** ONE fitness cost to the female of mating with this particular male.

Identification (1 point)

Z* W

Description (1 point)

- Fewer offspring will develop/survive.
- 1/4 of the offspring are predicted to die.
- Some of her offspring will have the Z* chromosome/all of her male offspring will have a Z* chromosome.

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Question 8

Acetylcholine receptor (AChR) proteins are found at the synapse between neurons and skeletal muscle cells. Acetylcholine released from neurons binds to a specific site on the receptor proteins, which causes an ion channel in the receptors to open and allow sodium ions (Na⁺) to enter muscle cells. The resulting depolarization of muscle cells initiates muscle contractions. Another molecule, nicotine, can also bind to certain types of AChR proteins and activate the receptors.

A researcher is investigating two different types of AChR proteins: type 1 and type 2. To determine which stimuli activate the receptors, the researcher exposes muscle cells expressing the different types of receptor proteins to stimuli and observes the results indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 1. RESPONSE OF AChR PROTEINS TO DIFFERENT STIMULI

AChR Protein Type	Acetylcholine	Nicotine
Type 1	+	+
Type 2	+	–

+ indicates activation

– indicates no activation

- (a) **Describe** the difference in the structure AND function between AChR type 1 and AChR type 2.

Description (2 points)

Points may be earned from only one row.

Structure (1 point maximum)	Function (1 point maximum)
Binding sites differ in shape/specificity/number	- Differential binding of molecules to type 1 and type 2 receptors - Activated by one (ACh) molecule or both (ACh and nicotine) molecules - No difference in response (both open channels OR both result in depolarization OR both cause muscle contraction)
Differential binding of molecules to type 1 and type 2 receptors	- Activated by one (ACh) or both (ACh and nicotine) molecules - No difference in response (both open channels OR both result in depolarization OR both cause muscle contraction)
Receptors activated by one (ACh) or both (ACh and nicotine) molecules	No difference in response (both open channels OR both result in depolarization OR both cause muscle contraction)

- (b) Acetylcholinesterase is an enzyme that breaks down acetylcholine in the synapse. **Describe** the effect of inhibiting acetylcholinesterase on the muscle cells with AChR type 2.

2018 SCORING GUIDELINES**Question 8 (continued)****Description (1 point)**

- Continued activation
- Repeated opening of sodium channels OR repeated depolarization OR muscle spasms

**AP[®] Biology
2016 Scoring Guidelines**

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2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

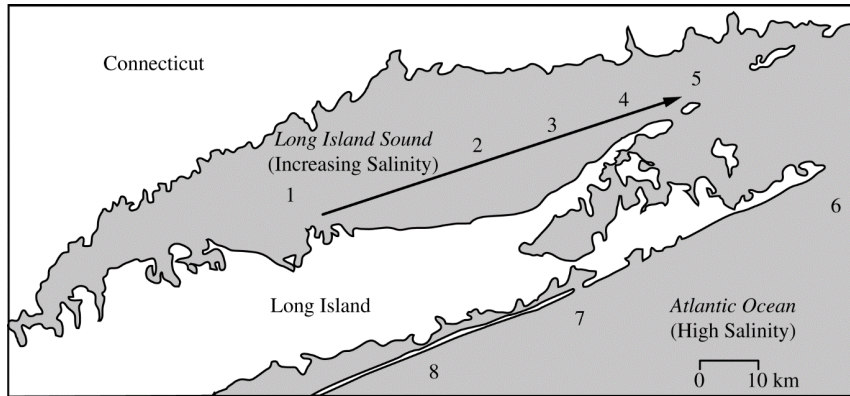


Figure 1. Sampling sites of marine mussels at various locations (1-8) in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean

TABLE 1. PERCENT OF INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING *lap⁹⁴* ALLELE

	Long Island Sound					Atlantic Ocean		
Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>lap⁹⁴</i> frequency (%)	13	16	25	37	55	59	59	59
Salinity	Low $\longrightarrow$ High					High		

Leucine aminopeptidases (LAPs) are found in all living organisms and have been associated with the response of the marine mussel, *Mytilus edulis*, to changes in salinity. LAPs are enzymes that remove N-terminal amino acids from proteins and release the free amino acids into the cytosol. To investigate the evolution of LAPs in wild populations of *M. edulis*, researchers sampled adult mussels from several different locations along a part of the northeast coast of the United States, as shown in Figure 1. The researchers then determined the percent of individuals possessing a particular *lap* allele, *lap⁹⁴*, in mussels from each sample site (table 1).

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Question 1 (continued)

- (a) On the axes provided, **construct** an appropriately labeled bar graph to illustrate the observed frequencies of the *lap⁹⁴* allele in the study populations. (3 points)

Construct graph (3 points)

- Correctly plotted bar graph that accurately represents the trend
- Correct axis labeling
- Correct scale and units

- (b) Based on the data, **describe** the most likely effect of salinity on the frequency of the *lap⁹⁴* allele in the marine mussel populations in Long Island Sound. **Predict** the likely *lap⁹⁴* allele frequency at a sampling site between site 1 and site 2 in Long Island Sound. (2 points)

Description (1 point)	Prediction (1 point)
• As salinity increases <i>lap⁹⁴</i> frequency increases • As salinity decreases <i>lap⁹⁴</i> frequency decreases	Between 13 and 16 percent (or a selected value between 13 and 16 percent)

- (c) **Describe** the most likely effect of LAP⁹⁴ activity on the osmolarity of the cytosol. **Describe** the function of LAP⁹⁴ in maintaining water balance in the mussels living in the Atlantic Ocean. (2 points)

Describe effect of LAP ⁹⁴ activity (1 point)	Describe function of LAP ⁹⁴ in maintaining water balance (1 point)
• LAP⁹⁴ increases osmolarity/solute concentration of the cytosol • LAP⁹⁴ decreases water potential of the cytosol	Prevents water loss to the environment

- (d) Marine mussel larvae are evenly dispersed throughout the study area by water movement. As larvae mature, they attach to the rocks in the water. **Explain** the differences in *lap⁹⁴* allele frequency among adult mussel populations at the sample sites despite the dispersal of larvae throughout the entire study area. **Predict** the likely effect on distribution of mussels in Long Island Sound if the *lap⁹⁴* allele was found in all of the mussels in the population. **Justify** your prediction. (3 points)

Explanation (1 point)	Prediction (1 point)	Justification (1 point)
• Mussels with <i>lap⁹⁴</i> allele are more likely to survive in high salinity/less likely to survive in low salinity. • Mussels without <i>lap⁹⁴</i> allele are less likely to survive in high salinity/more likely to survive in low salinity.	• Mussel population will increase in high salinity. • Mussel population will decline in low salinity.	• Mussels in high salinity with <i>lap⁹⁴</i> allele will osmoregulate. • Mussels in low salinity with <i>lap⁹⁴</i> allele will not osmoregulate.

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Question 2

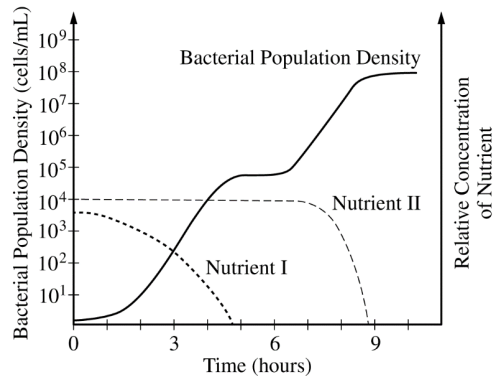


Figure 1. Bacterial population growth in the presence of two nutrients (nutrient I and nutrient II)

Bacteria can be cultured in media with carefully controlled nutrient composition. The graph above shows the growth of a bacterial population in a medium with limiting amounts of two nutrients, I and II.

- (a) **Estimate** the maximum population density in $\frac{\text{cells}}{\text{mL}}$ for the culture. Using the data, **describe** what prevents further growth of the bacterial population in the culture. **(2 points)**

Estimate (1 point)

- 10^8

Description (1 point)

- When both nutrients are depleted

- (b) Using the data, **calculate** the growth rate in $\frac{\text{cells}}{\text{mL} \times \text{hour}}$ of the bacterial population between hours 2 and 4. **(1 point)**

Calculation (1 point)

- 4,995

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Question 2 (continued)

- (c) **Identify** the preferred nutrient source of the bacteria in the culture over the course of the experiment. Use the graph to **justify** your response. **Propose** ONE advantage of the nutrient preference for an individual bacterium. **(3 points)**

Identification (1 point)

- Nutrient I is the preferred nutrient.

Justification (1 point)

- When both nutrients are present in the growth medium, only nutrient I is used.
- Nutrient II is only used after nutrient I is depleted.

Proposed advantage (1 point)

- Do not spend energy making enzymes/proteins that the cell doesn't need.
- Do not have to express all metabolic genes at once.
- The preferred nutrient provides more energy.

- (d) **Describe** how nutrient I most likely regulates the genes for metabolism of nutrient I and the genes for metabolism of nutrient II. **Provide** TWO reasons that the population does not grow between hours 5 and 6. **(4 points)**

Description (2 points)

- Nutrient I promotes expression of genes required for metabolism of nutrient I.
- Nutrient I represses expression of genes required for metabolism of nutrient II.

Reasoning (2 points)

- Nutrient I is depleted from the growth medium OR neither nutrient is being consumed.
- Takes time to produce proteins/enzymes required to metabolize nutrient II.

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Question 3

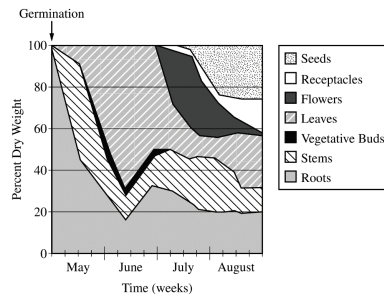


Figure 1. Percent dry weight of different plant structures during the growing season for an annual plant

The graph above illustrates the percent dry weight of different parts of a particular annual plant (plants that live less than one year) from early May to late August. The percent dry weight can be used to estimate the amount of energy a plant uses to produce its leaves, vegetative buds, stems, roots, and reproductive parts (seeds, receptacles, and flowers).

- (a) **Identify** the direct source of the energy used for plant growth during the first week of May, and **identify** the part of the plant that grew the most during the same period. (2 points)

Identify direct source of energy (1 point)

- Seed
- Stored organic nutrients/carbohydrates

Identify plant part (1 point)

- Roots

- (b) Based on the data on the graph, **estimate** the percent of the total energy that the plant has allocated to the growth of leaves on the first day of July. (1 point)

Identification (1 point)

- Any value between 45-55 percent

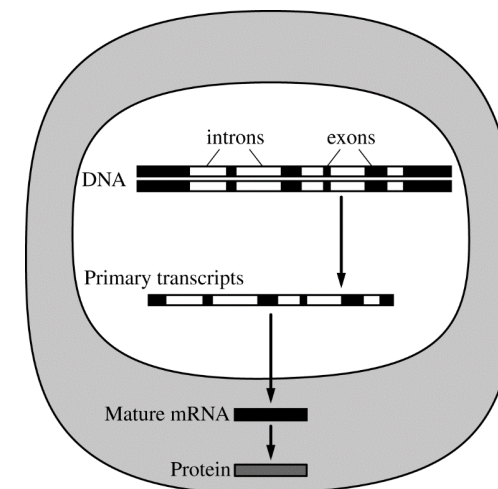
- (c) Compared with perennials (plants that live more than two years), annual plants often allocate a much greater percentage of their total energy to growth of their reproductive parts in any given year. **Propose** ONE evolutionary advantage of the energy allocation strategy in annual plants compared with that in perennial plants. (1 point)

Proposed advantage (1 point)

- Increased chance of reproduction before the plants die.
- If the plants do not use the strategy, they decrease the likelihood they will ever reproduce.

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Question 4



The figure represents the process of expression of gene X in a eukaryotic cell.

- (a) The primary transcript in the figure is 15 kilobases (kb) long, but the mature mRNA is 7 kb in length. **Describe** the modification that most likely resulted in the 8 kb difference in length of the mature mRNA molecule. **Identify** in your response the location in the cell where the change occurs. (2 points)

Describe process (1 point)

- Removal of introns
- RNA processing

Identification (1 point)

- Nucleus

- (b) **Predict** the length of the mature gene X mRNA if the full-length gene is introduced and expressed in prokaryotic cells. **Justify** your prediction. (2 points)

Prediction (1 point)

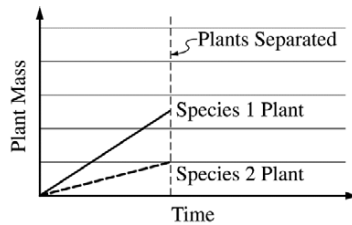
- 15 kb
- Longer than the mature mRNA in the eukaryote

Justification (1 point)

- mRNA processing typically does not occur in prokaryotes

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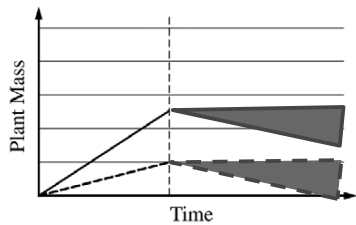
Question 5



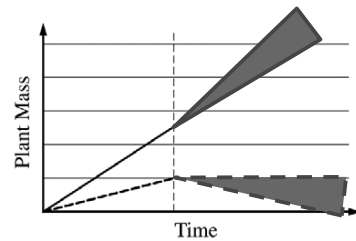
The graph above shows the mass of plants from two different species over time. The plants grew while attached to each other. The plants were separated at the time indicated by the vertical line in the graph.

Using template 1, **graph** the predicted shape of the plant-mass lines after separation of the two plants if the plants were in an obligate mutualistic relationship. On template 2, **graph** the predicted shape of the plant-mass lines if the species 2 plant was a parasite of the species 1 plant. **Justify** each of your predictions. **(4 points)**

TEMPLATE 1: OBLIGATE MUTUALISM



TEMPLATE 2: PARASITISM



	Graph characteristics (1 point each graph; 2 points maximum)	Justification (1 point each box; 2 points maximum)
Obligate Mutualism	Both of the growth curves level off or decline.	- Each species depends on the other for survival. - Without the relationship, both species are harmed.
Parasitism	Species 1 continues to increase while species 2 levels off or declines.	- The parasite requires an association with the host to survive but harms the host. - Without the relationship, the parasite cannot survive while the host continues to grow.

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Question 6

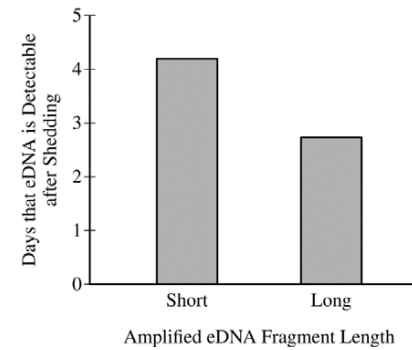


Figure 1. Detectability of eDNA fragments of varying lengths

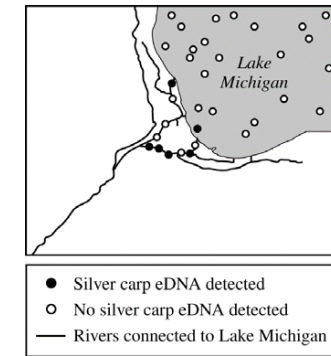


Figure 2. Map of the waterways that connect a nearby river system to Lake Michigan

Living and dead organisms continuously shed DNA fragments, known as eDNA, into the environment. To detect eDNA fragments in the environment, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can be used to amplify specific eDNA fragments. eDNA fragments of different lengths persist in the environment for varying amounts of time before becoming undetectable (Figure 1).

To investigate whether silver carp, an invasive fish, have moved from a nearby river system into Lake Michigan, researchers tested water samples for the presence of eDNA specific to silver carp (Figure 2).

- (a) **Justify** the use of eDNA sampling as an appropriate technique for detecting the presence of silver carp in an environment where many different species of fish are found. **Propose** ONE advantage of identifying long eDNA fragments as opposed to short fragments for detecting silver carp. **(2 points)**

Justify (1 point)

- eDNA allows detection of the fish without visual identification/catching the fish.

Proposed advantage (1 point)

- Longer fragments indicate more recent presence of fish.
- Longer fragments are more likely to contain a sequence that is specific to silver carp.
- Longer sequences/more base pairs may increase accuracy/specificity/confidence that the eDNA is from a silver carp and not a related species.

- (b) The researchers tested a large number of water samples from Lake Michigan and found eDNA specific to silver carp in a single sample in the lake, as indicated in Figure 2. The researchers concluded that the single positive sample was a false positive and that no silver carp had entered Lake Michigan.

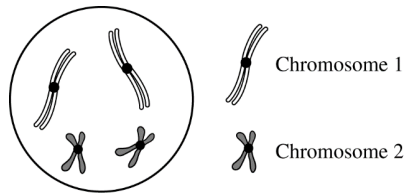
Provide reasoning other than human error to support the researchers' claim. **(1 point)**

Reasoning (1 point)

- eDNA entered the lake by means other than the fish (e.g., river flow, boats, waste from predators).

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Question 7

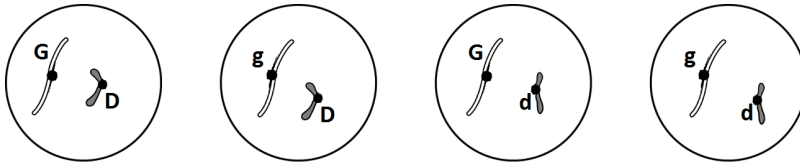


In a certain species of plant, the diploid number of chromosomes is 4 ($2n = 4$). Flower color is controlled by a single gene in which the green allele (G) is dominant to the purple allele (g). Plant height is controlled by a different gene in which the dwarf allele (D) is dominant to the tall allele (d). Individuals of the parental (P) generation with the genotypes $GGDD$ and $ggdd$ were crossed to produce F_1 progeny.

- (a) **Construct** a diagram below to depict the four possible normal products of meiosis that would be produced by the F_1 progeny. Show the chromosomes and the allele(s) they carry. Assume the genes are located on different chromosomes and the gene for flower color is on chromosome 1. (1 point)

Construct diagram (1 point)

- Diagram must include all of the following:
 - Each cell has one unduplicated chromosome 1 (with G or g).
 - Each cell has one unduplicated chromosome 2 (with D or d).
 - Genotype combinations should be: GD , Gd , gD , gd .



- (b) **Predict** the possible phenotypes and their ratios in the offspring of a testcross between an F_1 individual and a $ggdd$ individual. (1 point)

Prediction (1 point)

- 1 green dwarf: 1 green tall: 1 purple dwarf: 1 purple tall

- (c) If the two genes were genetically linked, **describe** how the proportions of phenotypes of the resulting offspring would most likely differ from those of the testcross between an F_1 individual and a $ggdd$ individual. (1 point)

Identify difference (1 point)

- The majority/greater than 50 percent would have the parental plant phenotypes
- Greater than 25 percent would be green dwarf plants and greater than 25 percent would be purple tall plants
- Less than 25 percent would be green tall plants and less than 25 percent would be purple dwarf plants

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Question 8

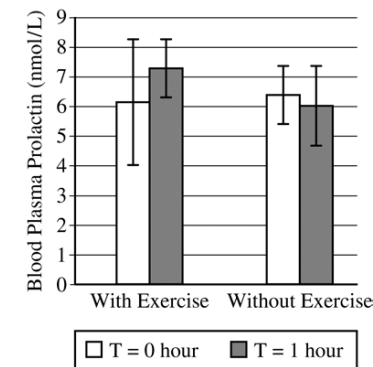


Figure 1. Effect of exercise on blood prolactin levels in adult males. The data represent the mean $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.

Researchers conducted a study to investigate the effect of exercise on the release of prolactin into the blood. The researchers measured the concentration of prolactin in the blood of eight adult males before ($T = 0$ hour) and after one hour ($T = 1$ hour) of vigorous exercise. As a control, the researchers measured the concentration of blood prolactin in the same group of individuals at the same times of day one week later, but without having them exercise. The results are shown in Figure 1.

- (a) **Justify** the use of the without-exercise treatment as the control in the study design. (1 point)

Justification (1 point)

- Attribute changes in the concentration of blood prolactin to exercise only
- Rule out normal fluctuations in prolactin release/levels

- (b) Using evidence from the specific treatments, **determine** whether prolactin release changes after exercise. **Justify** your answer. (2 points)

Determination (1 point)

- Exercise does not affect prolactin release

Justification (1 point)

- The $T=1$ hour with-exercise mean and the $T=1$ hour without-exercise mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$ error bars for the $T=1$ hour with-exercise time point and the $T=1$ hour time without-exercise point overlap.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$ error bars for the $T=0$ and $T=1$ hour with-exercise time points overlap.
- The $T=0$ hour with-exercise mean and the $T=1$ hour with exercise-mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.