

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

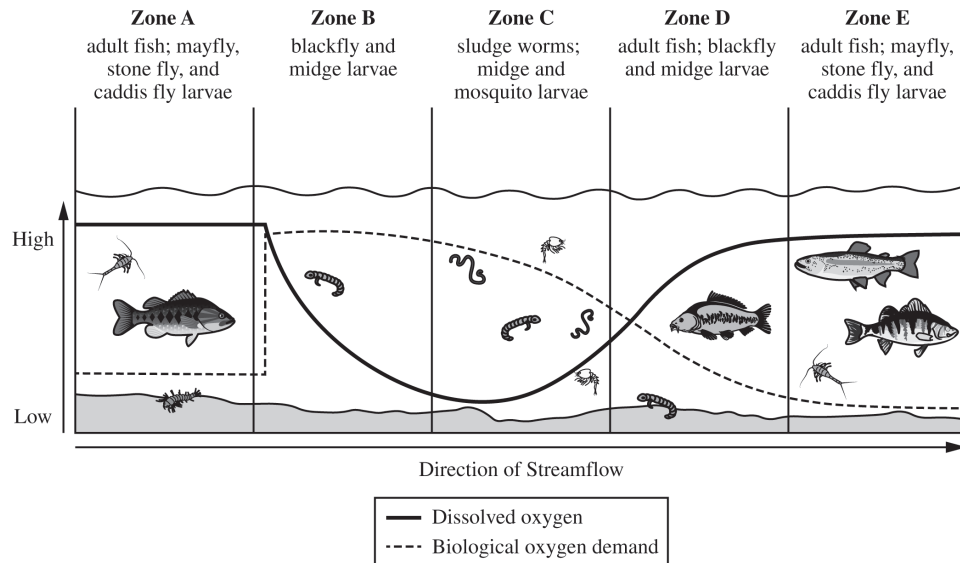
Time—1 hour and 10 minutes

3 Questions

Directions: Answer all three questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers in the Free Response booklet. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. Researchers are studying the stream ecosystem shown in the following diagram. They have identified five different zones based on the dissolved oxygen levels and biological oxygen demand as the water flows downstream. Biological oxygen demand is the amount of oxygen needed by bacteria and other microorganisms to break down organic material in water. Some of the most common fish and macroinvertebrate species found in each zone are listed in the diagram.

Dissolved Oxygen and Biological Oxygen Demand in a Stream Ecosystem



- (a) Based on the information in the diagram, **identify** the zone with the lowest level of dissolved oxygen..
- (b) Based on the information in the diagram, **describe** the relationship between biological oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen.
- (c) Based on the information in the diagram, **identify** the zone where there is most likely point-source water pollution discharged into the stream.

The research team is interested in investigating the relationship between dissolved oxygen levels and macroinvertebrate species richness in the stream. Researchers counted the number of macroinvertebrate species in zones A, B, and C during the summer months. The researchers selected zone A to serve as the control in the investigation.

- (d) **Identify** the dependent variable in the researchers' investigation.
- (e) **Identify** a testable hypothesis for the researchers' investigation.
- (f) **Describe** the reason the researchers selected zone A to serve as the control in the investigation.

The researchers decided to repeat their data collection during the winter months.

- (g) **Explain** how the modification to collect data in the winter months could alter the results of the investigation.

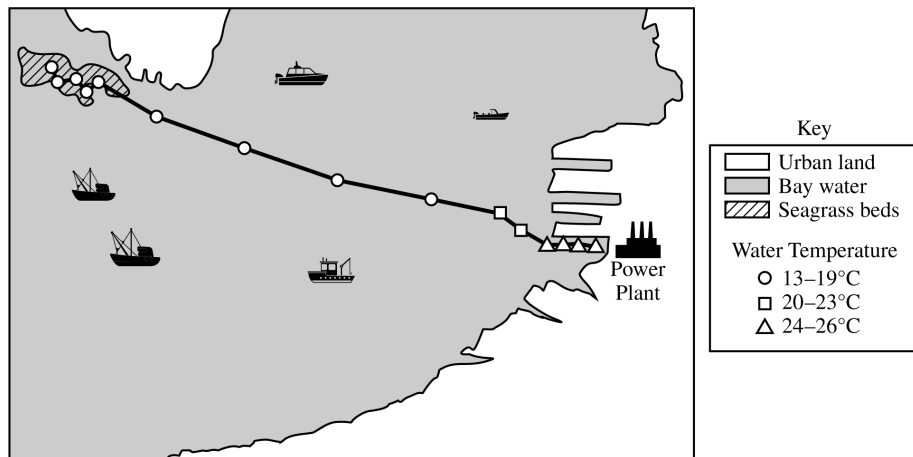
Stream ecosystems are affected by point-source organic pollution in a variety of ways.

- (h) **Describe** the effect that the introduction of raw sewage into the stream could have on the population of bacteria in the stream.
- (i) **Identify** an abiotic factor other than dissolved oxygen and organic pollution that could also influence the population size of bacteria in the stream.
- (j) **Explain** how persistent organic pollutants can affect higher trophic levels in an aquatic food web.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

2. The diagram shows the movement of one adult manatee over a 12-hour period across an active shipping channel during the winter. Manatees are large, aquatic, herbivorous mammals that primarily eat seagrass. Manatees can travel several miles to graze. Manatees mature slowly, have low biotic potential, and inhabit warm coastal waters. They cannot survive in water below 20°C for extended periods of time.

Satellite Track and Water Temperature Log of the Movement of One Adult Manatee Over a 12-Hour Period



- (a) Based on the information in the diagram, **identify** the temperature range of the water through which the majority of the adult manatee's daily movement occurs.
- (b) Large groups of manatees are often observed in shallow waters near the waste water released by the electrical power plant during the winter. Based on the information in the diagram, **identify** a characteristic of the power plant waste water that would attract the manatees.
- (c) Based on the information in the diagram, **describe** a potential negative impact of the waste water released by the power plant on other aquatic species.
- (d) Seagrass beds have declined significantly over the last several years. In 2021 manatee mortality was three times higher than the previous five-year average.
- (i) **Describe** a characteristic of the manatees that increases their vulnerability to the recent decline of seagrasses.
 - (ii) **Describe** the change in energy flow through the trophic levels that occurs when there is a significant loss of seagrasses.

- (e) Research has shown increased nutrient and sediment runoff can cause seagrass beds to decline.
- (i) **Propose** a solution to reduce nutrient or sediment pollution in an estuary that is surrounded by urban development.
 - (ii) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (e)(i) by providing an additional advantage of reduced nutrients in an estuary, other than one related to manatees.

Urban areas have a heavy dependence on automobiles and often experience photochemical smog.

- (f) **Describe** how summertime weather conditions can increase the frequency of photochemical smog.
- (g) **Identify** one ecological problem that results from exposure to photochemical smog.

A potential solution to reduce photochemical smog in urban areas with high automobile traffic is to replace gasoline-powered cars with cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

- (h) **Describe** a potential disadvantage of using hydrogen fuel cells to power automobiles.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.