

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

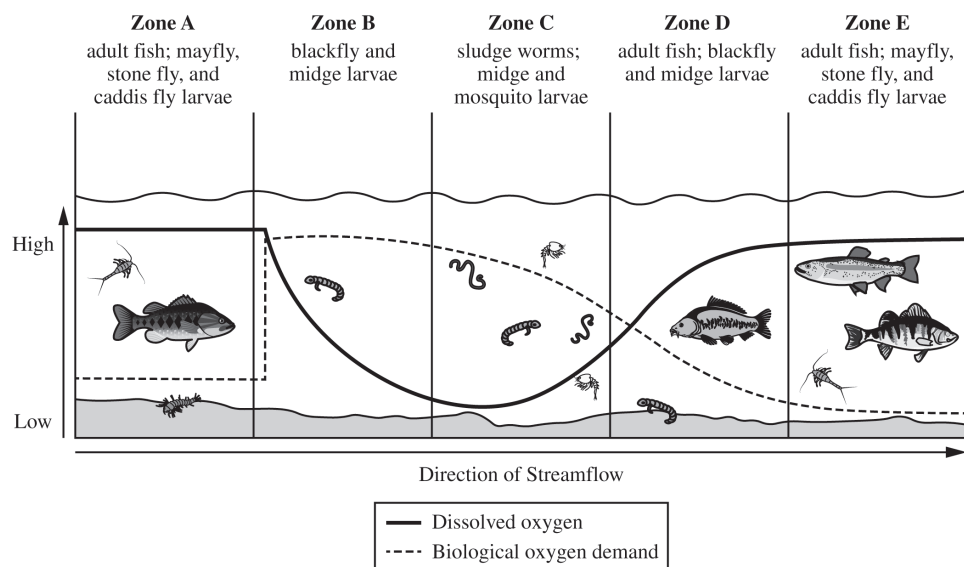
Time—1 hour and 10 minutes

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

Time—90 minutes

4 Questions

Directions: Answer all four questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers on the pages following the questions in this book. 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.

1. Read the following article from the *Fremont Daily Times* and answer the questions that follow.

Fremont Daily Times

Scientists Discuss Threats from Plastic Pollution

In testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Dr. Duke Ewoldsen, an eminent toxicologist, discussed a new water pollutant that threatens aquatic life: microbeads. Ewoldsen noted that while posing a different threat than more conventional water pollutants such as nitrates, phosphates and PCBs, tiny beads of plastic contained in many products, especially cosmetics, now threaten plankton and small fish that ingest the particles because they mistake

them for food. The microbeads cannot be digested and can fill or block the digestive tracts of the fish, leading to starvation. In addition, surfaces of these small spheres can adsorb organic pollutants such as PCBs and dioxin.

When asked about steps to reduce this threat, Ewoldsen noted that the beads are so small that they are not easily removed by wastewater treatment plants and thus often enter aquatic ecosystems in wastewater discharges.

- Describe** TWO effects that ingesting microbeads has on aquatic organisms.
- Dr. Ewoldsen states that nitrates pose different threats to aquatic ecosystems than microbeads do. **Describe** how nitrate levels can negatively affect water quality in some aquatic ecosystems.
- While wastewater treatment plants are ineffective at removing microbeads, they are very effective at removing large pieces of plastic waste and other pollutants.
 - Identify** one way large pieces of plastic are removed from wastewater during primary treatment.
 - Prior to discharge, wastewater is often disinfected. **Identify** one technique commonly used to disinfect wastewater.
 - Sludge or biosolids produced during the wastewater treatment process can be spread on agricultural fields. **Identify** one advantage and one disadvantage of this practice.
- Coastal ecosystems are threatened by other human activities in addition to wastewater disposal. Mangrove swamps are one such threatened ecosystem.
 - Provide** one reason why mangrove trees are being removed by humans.
 - Identify** one ecosystem service provided by intact mangrove ecosystems.

2. Like many communities, Fremont has a combined sewer system that collects both sewage and storm water. When storm water runs into storm drains that connect to the city's sanitary sewer system, the storm water and sewage flow together to the Fremont Wastewater Treatment Plant (FWTP). During a major storm event, however, the combined volume of storm water and sewage may exceed the plant's capacity, and the overflow bypasses the FWTP. The untreated overflow is discharged into Fremont Creek along with the treated waste.

Recently parts of Fremont received 5 cm of rain in 60 minutes. The storm caused widespread flooding in the northeast section of town. Especially hard hit was the Shoppes at Fremont shopping center.

Use the data from the table below to answer the questions that follow. Show all calculations.

Fremont Water Data
The shopping center's parking lot is 200 meters long and 100 meters wide.
Fremont has an area of 10 km ² .
Impervious surfaces cover 20 percent of Fremont's area.
The FWTP typically treats 5,000 m ³ of domestic sewage per day.
The FWTP has the capacity to treat 10,000 m ³ of combined sewage and storm water per day.

- Identify** TWO specific pollutants in storm-water runoff that degrade the quality of surface water.
- Calculate** the volume of water (in m³) that runs off the Shoppes at Fremont parking lot after a 5 cm rainfall event. Assume that all the water that falls on the parking lot runs off.
- Calculate** the volume of storm-water runoff (in m³) generated in all of Fremont by the 5 cm rainfall event. Assume that only the impervious surfaces generate runoff.
- Assume that all the runoff that you calculated in part (c) is captured by the storm sewers in one day. **Calculate** the volume of untreated water (in m³) that bypasses the plant as a result of the storm. (Note that the plant still receives 5,000 m³ of domestic sewage per day.)
- Describe** TWO ways that the volume of storm-water runoff can be reduced.
- Describe** one environmental problem (other than pollution from runoff and from untreated sewage) that results from having extensive paved areas.