31.1 Homeostasis

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 20 marks**

KEY WORDS homeostasis • negative feedback • insulin • glucagon • vasodilation • ultrafiltration

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **homeostasis** : negative feedback, control of blood glucose, diabetes and body temperature.

You must be able to:

- explain homeostasis and negative feedback with a stimulus–receptor–effector loop
- explain the control of blood glucose by insulin and glucagon, and compare type 1 and type 2 diabetes
- explain thermoregulation by the hypothalamus: vasodilation, vasoconstriction, sweating and shivering
- interpret glucose tolerance and temperature data

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Homeostasis

Homeostasis keeps internal conditions (blood glucose, body temperature, water balance, blood pH) within narrow limits. **Negative feedback:** a change from the set point is detected by **receptors**, and **effectors** bring the value back.

blood glucose	detected by	hormone	effect
too high (after a meal)	β cells in the pancreas	**insulin**	cells take up glucose; liver and muscle store it as **glycogen**
too low (fasting, exercise)	α cells in the pancreas	**glucagon**	liver breaks glycogen down to glucose

Type 1 diabetes: the immune system destroys β cells, so little insulin is made; treated with insulin injections. **Type 2 diabetes:** cells respond less to insulin; linked to diet, obesity and lack of exercise; treated with diet, exercise and drugs.

Thermoregulation (set point about 37 °C): the **hypothalamus** receives informa-

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tion from thermoreceptors.

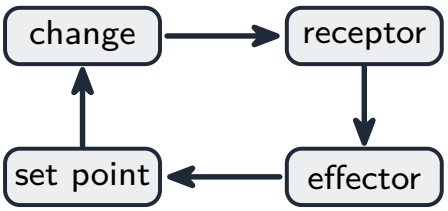
- **too hot: vasodilation** of skin arterioles (more heat lost from the skin), **sweating** (evaporation removes heat).
- **too cold: vasoconstriction**, **shivering** (muscle contractions release heat), hair erection, and **thyroxine** raises the metabolic rate; brown fat releases heat in babies.

Worked example. Blood glucose rises from 5.0 to 8.5 mmol dm^{-3} after a meal: an increase of $\frac{3.5}{5.0} \times 100 = \mathbf{70}\%$.

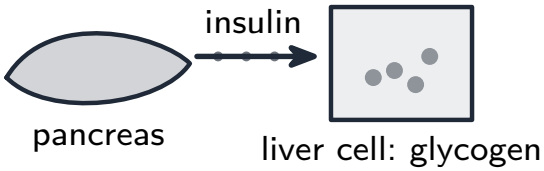
Answer shapes: change → receptor → hormone or nerve → effector → effect → value returns (negative feedback).

2 Practice

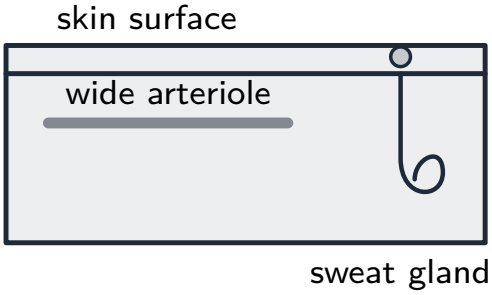
2.1 Outline what is meant by negative feedback. [2]



2.2 Explain how blood glucose concentration is lowered after a meal. [3]

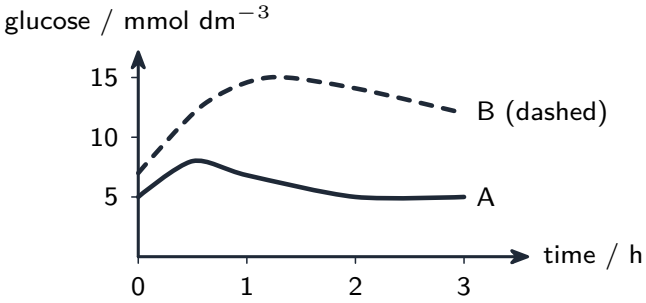


2.3 Explain how the skin helps to cool the body on a hot day. [3]



3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The graph shows blood glucose in two people after each drank 75 g of glucose at time 0.



(a) State the maximum blood glucose of person B. [1]

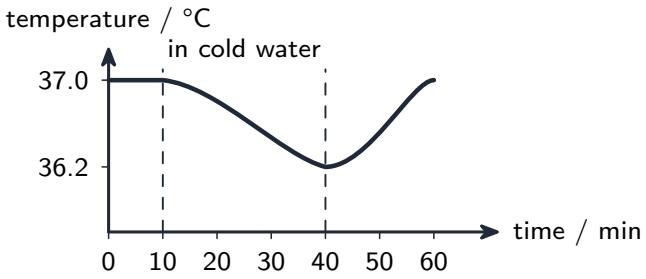
(b) Describe the results for person A. [2]

(c) Suggest, with a reason, which person has diabetes. [1]

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(d) Explain one difference in the cause of type 1 and type 2 diabetes. [2]

3.2 The graph shows the core temperature of a swimmer who enters cold water at 10 minutes and leaves it at 40 minutes.



(a) Calculate the fall in core temperature. [1]

(b) Name the part of the brain that detects the change. [1]

(c) Explain two responses that reduce heat loss or increase heat production. [4]

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