

1.1 Characteristics of living organisms

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS organisms • excretion • respiration • growth
• characteristics

Objective

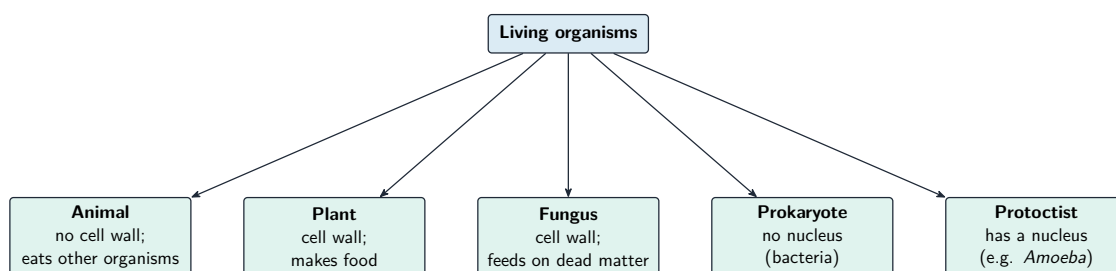
Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **characteristics of living organisms**
– the seven life processes (**MRS GREN**).

You must be able to:

- list the seven characteristics with their exact definitions
- define respiration, excretion, sensitivity and nutrition precisely
- recognise that digestion and breathing are **not** in the list

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ MRS GREN



All living organisms carry out the seven life processes

- Movement, **R**espiration, **S**ensitivity, **G**rowth, **R**eproduction, **E**xcretion, **N**utrition.
- **respiration:** chemical reactions in cells that break down nutrients to release energy.
- **excretion:** removal of the toxic waste products of metabolism (and excess substances).

2 Practice

2.1 State what the letters MRS GREN stand for (any four). [4]

2.2 Define growth. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A student lists four things a mouse does. Which one is the characteristic **excretion**? [1]

- ☐ **A** it breaks down food in its gut into small soluble molecules
B it removes carbon dioxide made by its own respiration
C it moves away from a bright light
D it takes in oxygen through its lungs

3.2 Give the precise definition of: [2]

(a) excretion

(b) sensitivity

3.3 Explain the difference between nutrition and digestion. [2]
