

# AQA GCSE BIOLOGY

# NOTEBOOK

ALL THE KEY  
CONTENT IN 28  
PAGES!



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## EUKARYOTIC AND PROKARYOTIC CELLS

### EUKARYOTIC CELLS (ANIMAL & PLANT)

- DNA enclosed in a nucleus.
- Larger (10–100  $\mu\text{m}$ ).
- Found in animals, plants, fungi, protists.

#### Animal Cells (Eukaryotic)

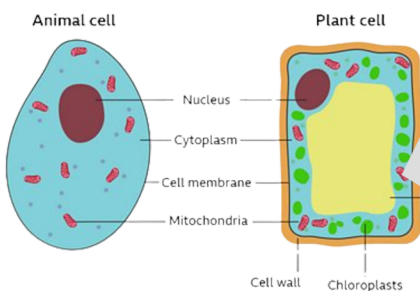
- Nucleus – contains genetic material, controls cell activities.
- Cytoplasm – site of chemical reactions.
- Cell membrane – controls substance movement.
- Mitochondria – site of aerobic respiration.
- Ribosomes – site of protein synthesis.

#### Plant Cells (Eukaryotic) (Same as animal cells, plus:)

- Cell wall (cellulose) – provides strength.
- Chloroplasts – photosynthesis, contain chlorophyll.
- Permanent vacuole – stores cell sap, maintains structure.

### PROKARYOTIC CELLS (BACTERIA)

- Smaller ( $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ ).
- No nucleus – DNA is a single circular strand in cytoplasm.
- May have plasmids (small rings of DNA).
- No mitochondria or chloroplasts.
- Cell wall (peptidoglycan) for support.



## SCALE & SIZE OF CELLS

- Cells are very small and require a microscope to be seen.
- Measured in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
- $1 \mu\text{m} = 0.001 \text{ mm} = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$
- Be able to convert between different units:
- $1 \text{ mm} = 1000 \mu\text{m}$  ( $\times 1000$  to go from  $\mu\text{m} \rightarrow \text{mm}$ )
- $1 \mu\text{m} = 1000 \text{ nm}$  ( $\times 1000$  to go from  $\text{nm} \rightarrow \mu\text{m}$ )

### ORDER OF SIZE (FROM SMALLEST TO LARGEST)

- HIV Virus  $\rightarrow 100 \text{ nm}$
- Mitochondria & Chloroplasts  $\rightarrow 1.5 \mu\text{m}$
- Cholera Bacteria  $\rightarrow 2 \mu\text{m}$
- Cheek Cell (Animal)  $\rightarrow 70 \mu\text{m}$
- Palisade Mesophyll (Plant)  $\rightarrow 70 \mu\text{m}$
- Many subcellular structures
- Cells are the same size or larger than prokaryotic cells.

### ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE

- Used to compare size factors of 10:
  - 10 times larger  $\rightarrow 10^1$
  - 10 times smaller  $\rightarrow 10^{-1}$
  - 100 times larger  $\rightarrow 10^2$
  - 100 times smaller  $\rightarrow 10^{-2}$
- Metric Prefixes:
  - Centi- (cm)  $\rightarrow 10^{-2}$
  - Milli- (mm)  $\rightarrow 10^{-3}$
  - Micro- ( $\mu\text{m}$ )  $\rightarrow 10^{-6}$
  - Nano- (nm)  $\rightarrow 10^{-9}$

### HOW TO WRITE SMALL NUMBERS

- Use scientific notation to avoid long strings of zeros.
- Exam,  $0.0015 \rightarrow 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$
- $0.0000001 \rightarrow 1 \times 10^{-7}$
- Calculations as they may be done.

## CELL DIFFERENTIATION

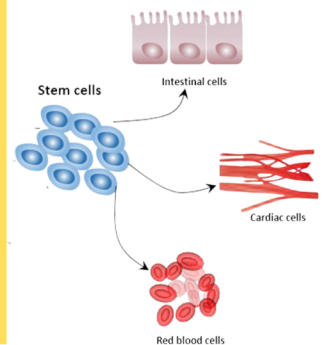
- Process where cells become specialised by switching certain genes on or off.
- Specialised cells develop structures suited to their function.

### DIFFERENTIATION IN ANIMALS

- Occurs early in development, then stops.
- In adults, only stem cells (e.g., bone marrow) can differentiate for repair & replacement.
- Red blood cells lose their nucleus, so cannot divide.

### DIFFERENTIATION IN PLANTS

- Occurs throughout life.
- Cells differentiate when positioned but can re-differentiate if moved.



# CELL BIOLOGY

## CELL SPECIALISATION (ANIMALS)

### SPERM CELL -Function: Cell fertilisation.

- Streamlined head and tail for swimming.
- Mitochondria in mid-piece provides energy for movement.
- Acrosome (head)  $\rightarrow$  contains enzymes to break down egg membrane.
- Haploid nucleus restores normal chromosome number after fertilisation.

### NERVE CELL (Neuron) -Function: Transmits electrical signals across the body.

- Long axon carries impulses over distances.
- Dendrites connect with sensory organs, muscles, and glands.
- Myelin sheath insulates and speeds up impulse transmission.
- Mitochondria in nerve endings  $\rightarrow$  provides energy for neurotransmitter release.

### MUSCLE CELL -Function: Contractible movement.

- Contains protein filaments  $\rightarrow$  cause contraction.
- Lots of mitochondria  $\rightarrow$  release energy for contraction.
- Stores glycogen  $\rightarrow$  energy source for mitochondria.

## CELL SPECIALISATION (PLANTS)

### ROOT HAIR CELL -Function: Absorbs water and minerals from the soil.

- Large surface area (root hairs)  $\rightarrow$  increases water uptake.
- Thin cell wall  $\rightarrow$  reduces diffusion distance.
- Large vacuole  $\rightarrow$  maintains water movement.
- Mitochondria  $\rightarrow$  provide energy for active transport of minerals.

### XYLEM CELL -Function: Transports water and dissolved minerals from roots to leaves.

- Hollow (no organelles/cytoplasm)  $\rightarrow$  free water movement.
- Walls thickened with lignin  $\rightarrow$  provides strength and prevents collapse.
- End walls broken down  $\rightarrow$  forms a continuous column of water.

### PHLOEM CELL -Function: Transports sugars (from photosynthesis) around the plant.

- Joined end-to-end  $\rightarrow$  forms continuous tubes.
- Sieve plates (holes in end walls)  $\rightarrow$  allow easy flow of sugars.
- Few subcellular structures  $\rightarrow$  reduces resistance to flow.
- Companion cells with mitochondria  $\rightarrow$  provide energy for active transport.

## COMMUNICABLE (INFECTIOUS) DISEASES

- Caused by pathogens → transmissible (e.g. HIV, malaria, TB)

Pathogens include:

- Bacteria → reproduce quickly → release toxins → damage tissue
- Viruses → invade cells → replicate → burst cell → illness
- Fungi → can produce spores → spread to others
- Protists → often parasitic (live in host and cause damage)

### Transmission methods:

- Direct contact → touching skin/fluids/faeces/infected plant material
- By water → dirty/contaminated water
- By air → droplet infection (sneezing, coughing → inhaled)

### PREVENTING SPREAD OF DISEASE

- Hygiene → wash hands, clean surfaces, cover sneezes
- Food hygiene → keep food cold, cook thoroughly, use clean utensils
- Waste disposal → cover bins, remove waste → stop flies (vectors)
- Sanitation → safe water + sewage treatment
- Vaccination → triggers immune response → stops pathogen spreading
- Destroy vectors → pesticides/insecticides remove habitats

## VIRAL DISEASES

- Not living (no 7 life processes) → no nucleus/cytoplasm/organelle
- Reproduce rapidly → inject DNA/RNA → host cell builds viruses → cell bursts → virus spread

### MEASLES

- Symptoms → fever + red rash → may cause blindness/brain damage
- Spread → droplet infection (cough/sneeze) → very contagious
- Prevention → is childhood vac

### HIV/AIDS

- Symptoms → flu-like → virus attacks immune system → becomes weak
- Spread → unprotected sex, blood (needle), birth/breastfeeding
- Prevention → condom, safe sex, no needle sharing, avoid blood

### Tobacco Mosaic

- Spread → plants (tomatoes)
- Symptoms → yellowing, stunted growth
- Prevention → avoid contact with infected plants, stay in soil

## BACTERIAL DISEASES

- Bacterial pathogens → infect plants/animals → produce toxins → damage cells
- Not all bacteria are harmful → skin (some with pathogens) → gut (some cellulose → make Vit K)
- Spread → by bin
- Symptoms → warm + nutrient-

### SALMONELLA

- Symptoms → fever + cramps + vomiting + diarrhoea (toxins irritate)
- Spread → Undercooked/contaminated food (eggs, chicken) → UK chicken
- Prevention → Cook food thoroughly → Prevent raw meat cross-contamination → Hand + surface washing

### GONORRHOEA

- Symptoms → Yellow/green discharge + pain urinating + possible infertility/blindness in babies
- Spread → Unprotected sex
- Prevention → Condoms → Antibiotics (some resistance) → Contact tracing & treatment

# INFECTION & RESPONSE

## FUNGAL DISEASES

### ROSE BLACK SPOT

- Symptoms → Purple/black spots on leaves → less photosynthesis → yellowing + early leaf fall
- Spread → Spores via wind
- Prevention → Use fungicides → Remove & burn infected leaves

## HUMAN DEFENCE SYSTEMS

### NON-SPECIFIC DEFENCE

- Skin → barrier + sebum → bacteria
- Mucous → hairs + mucus → pathogens
- Stomach → acid kills pathogens
- Natural flora outcompete

### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

- White blood cells (WBCs) → defend against pathogens via:
- Phagocytosis → WBC engulfs + digests
- Antibodies → made by lymphocytes → bind to antigens (on pathogen surface) → agglutination (clumping) → phagocytes digest
- Antitoxins → neutralise toxins (from bacteria)

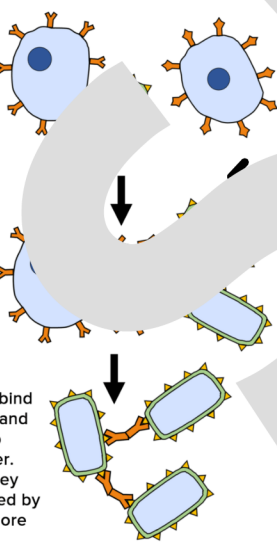
### ANTIBODIES & ANTITOXINS

- Antibodies → Y-shaped → specific to 1 antigen → clump pathogens
- Memory cells → quicker response if reinfected
- Antitoxins → neutralise bacterial toxins

1. Lymphocyte recognises pathogen by its antigens.

2. Lymphocyte produces antibodies with specific shapes.

3. Antibodies bind to pathogens and cause them to clump together. This means they can be ingested by phagocytes more easily.



## PROTIST DISEASES

- Eukaryotic, mostly unicellular → few are pathogenic → spread via vector (e.g. mosquito) → infect host

### MALARIA OVERVIEW

- Cause → Protist from Plasmodium genus
- Spread → Female Anopheles mosquito (vector)
- Symptoms → Recurrent fever + shaking → due to bursting red blood cells → can be fatal
- Treatment → Antimalarial drugs (less effective due to resistance)
- Prevention → Insecticides in buildings → Insecticide-treated nets → Stop mosquito breeding (remove standing water) → Antimalarials for travellers

### MALARIA LIFE CYCLE

- Mosquito bites human → parasite enters liver → asexual reproduction → enters blood → infects RBCs → mosquito feeds again → sexual reproduction in mosquito



## PHOTOSYNTHESIS

- Plants = autotrophs → make own food using light,  $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Producers in food chains
- Endothermic reaction → energy from environment → chloroplasts via light
- Takes place in mesophyll cells (contain chlorophyll)
- Glucose → used for respiration + to make plant substances
- Oxygen → by-product, used in respiration / diffuses out

### EQUATIONS

Word:

- $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow (\text{light} + \text{chlorophyll}) \rightarrow \text{Glucose} + \text{O}_2$

Balanced symbol:

- $6\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow (\text{light} + \text{chlorophyll}) \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{O}_2$

### REACTANTS: HOW THEY ENTER

- $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow$  absorbed by roots → xylem → leaves
- $\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow$  diffuses in through stomata

## FACTORS AFFECTING PHOTOSYNTHESIS

### LIGHT INTENSITY

- ↑ light → ↑ rate (more energy) → until another factor limits
- Graph: linear → plateau

### $\text{CO}_2$ CONCENTRATION

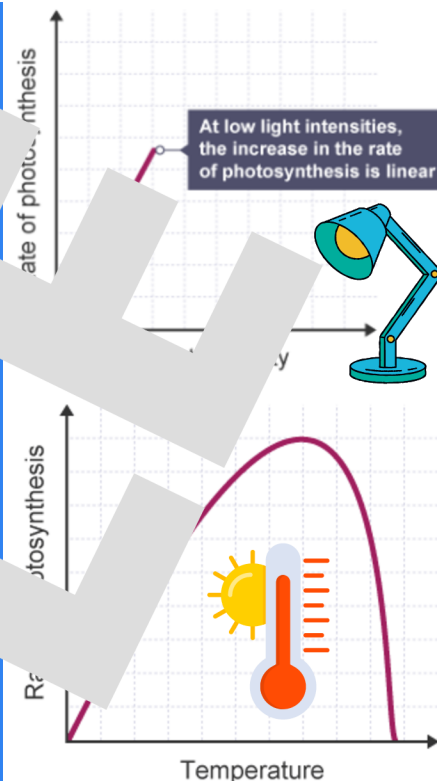
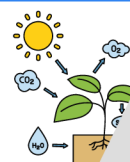
- ↑  $\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow$  ↑ rate (more raw material) → then levels off
- Graph: same pattern as light

### TEMPERATURE

- ↑ temp → ↑ kinetic energy → collisions → ↑ rate
- Too high → enzymes denature
- Graph: curve with optimum peak

### CHLOROPHYLL

- More chlorophyll → ↑ rate
- ↓ chlorophyll → diseases (e.g.  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , leaf loss) → ↓ rate



## BIOENERGETICS

## REQUIRED PRACTICAL

**Aim** → Effect of light intensity on rate of photosynthesis (via oxygen production)

**Method:**

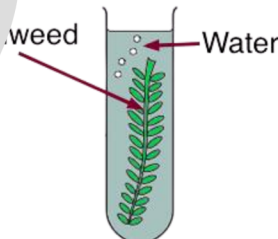
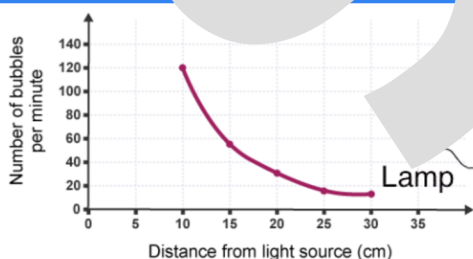
- Pondweed in water → lamp at diff. distance → count bubbles in 3 min → repeat at diff. distances → calculate mean
- Variables
- IV = Distance from lamp
- DV = Bubbles/min
- CVs = Temp (thermocouple),  $\text{NaHCO}_3 \rightarrow$  same plant, same volume of water

**Improvements**

- Use gas syringe for  $\text{O}_2$
- Repeat for accuracy
- Glass tank or LED to stop temp changes

**Results**

- Distance ↑ → light intensity ↓ → bubbles/min ↓
- Graph → inverse square law
- Support → inverse square law
- Light intensity → distance



## EFFECTS OF LIMITING FACTORS

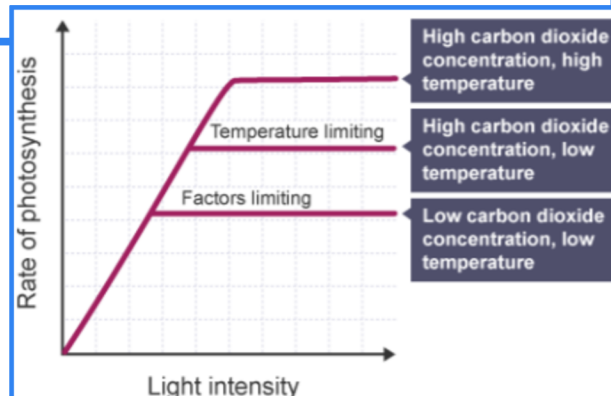
- Any one factor can affect rate of photosynthesis.
- As one factor increases, rate increases until another factor becomes limiting

### INVERSE SQUARE LAW (HT ONLY)

- Light intensity → rate (more light → more photosynthesis) → another factor becomes limiting
- Inverse Square Law:  $\text{Light Intensity} = 1 / \text{Distance}^2$
- Example: Distance = 30cm →  $\text{Light intensity} = 1/30^2 = 0.001 \text{ au}$
- Moving lamp → lower intensity

### GROWING IN A GREENHOUSE

- Factors to boost photosynthesis → increase yield →
- Light → artificial lighting, remove shades
- Temp → traps heat, paraffin heaters
- $\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow$  from heaters
- Water → irrigation system
- Pests/diseases → enclosed space, easier to manage
- Nutrients → fertilisers
- Only increase factors until another becomes limiting → avoid wasting money



## THE EYE

- The eye is a sense organ with receptor cells sensitive to light intensity and colour.
- Its role → receive light → focus it on the retina.
- Main functions → Adaptation (to light levels) | Accommodation (to near/far objects).

### STRUCTURE OF THE EYE

- Sclera** – white, tough outer layer protecting the eye.
- Cornea** – transparent front; refracts (bends) light.
- Iris** – controls light entering by adjusting pupil size.
- Pupil** – hole allowing light in.
- Lens** – transparent disc that changes shape to focus light on retina.
- Ciliary muscles + suspensory ligaments** – work together to adjust lens shape.
- Retina** – contains receptor cells that detect light intensity & colour.
- Optic nerve** – carries impulses from retina → brain.

### ADAPTATION TO LIGHT

- Reflex action protects retina from bright light damage.
- Dim light: pupil dilates (iris relaxes) → more light enters
- Bright light: pupil constricts (iris contracts) → less light enters

### ACCOMMODATION (FOCUSING ON NEAR/FAR OBJECTS)

- Lens changes shape to focus light correctly on retina.
- Near object: ciliary muscles contract | suspensory ligaments loosen | lens thickens | refracts more light.
- Distant object: ciliary muscles relax | suspensory ligaments tighten | lens thins | refracts less light.

### COMMON EYE DEFECTS

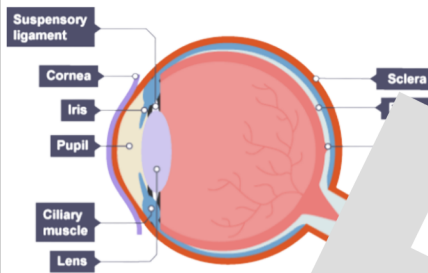
- Myopia (short-sightedness)** → can't focus on distant objects → image forms in front of retina → corrected with concave lens (spreads light).
- Hyperopia (long-sightedness)** → can't focus on near objects → image forms behind retina → corrected with convex lens (converges light).

### TREATING EYE DEFECTS

- Contact lenses** – sit on cornea | hard lenses = comfy but infection risk.
- Laser surgery** – reshapes cornea:
  - Myopia → flattened (less refraction),
  - Hyperopia → cornea curved (more refraction).
- Risk:** infection, vision loss.
- Lens replacement** – replace natural lens with artificial one | risk of retinal damage or sight loss.

### EXAM TIPS

- Link structure → function (e.g. cornea refracts, retina = detects).
- Describe pupil reflex clearly (bright vs dim).
- Remember near = thick lens, far = thin lens.
- Be ready to draw ray diagrams for myopia & hyperopia corrections.



## CONTROL OF BODY TEMPERATURE

- The body must stay around 37°C for enzymes to work efficiently.
- Heat produced by respiration ↔ heat lost to surroundings = balance maintained.
- Controlled by the thermoregulatory centre in the brain.
- Control of blood flow: detecting blood temperature & sending impulses to blood vessels.
- Skin: external temperature sensors & sweat glands.

### WHEN BODY TEMPERATURE IS TOO HIGH (COOLING RESPONSES)

- Vasodilation: blood vessels widen → ↑ blood flow → heat lost by radiation.
- Sweating: sweat evaporates, cooling the body.

### WHEN BODY TEMPERATURE IS TOO LOW (WARMING RESPONSES)

- Vasoconstriction: blood vessels narrow → ↓ blood flow near skin.
- Shivering: skeletal muscles contract rapidly → respiration releases heat energy.
- Result: body temperature increases back to normal.

### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK LOOP

- Thermoreceptors detect temp change → send signal to brain.
- Effectors (muscles, glands) respond → restore normal body temperature.
- Example: sweating & vasodilation when too hot | shivering & vasoconstriction when too cold.

### KEY TERMS

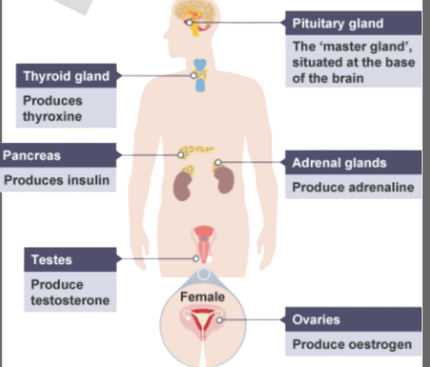
- Vasodilation** → widening of blood vessels to release heat.
- Vasoconstriction** → narrowing of blood vessels to conserve heat.

## ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

- Glands that secrete hormones directly into the bloodstream → hormones travel in blood → affect target organs.
- Connected to nervous system: longer-lasting effects.

### MAJOR ENDOCRINE GLANDS & HORMONES

- Pituitary gland** – 'master gland' → secretes other hormones.
- Thyroid gland** → thyroxine (controls metabolism & growth).
- Adrenal glands** → adrenaline (prepares body for action).
- Ovaries (females)** → oestrogen (sex hormone).
- Testes (males)** → testosterone (sex hormone).

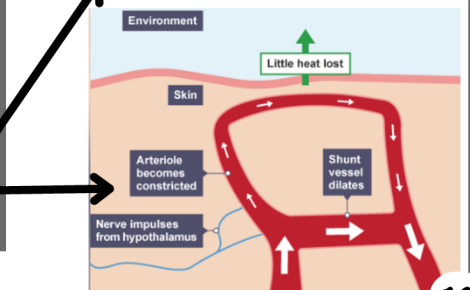
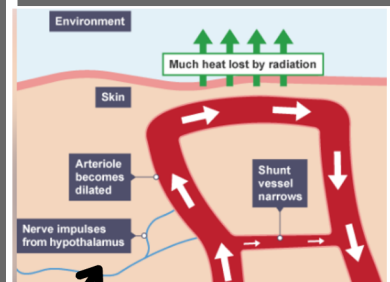


### PITUITARY GLAND

- Master gland → releases hormones into blood in response to conditions.
- stimulates other glands (e.g. TSH → thyroid → thyroxine).
- Hormones only affect target cells → must have complementary receptors.
- Non-target cells = no effect.

### HORMONE ACTION

- Process: Gland (e.g. pituitary) → releases hormone → carried in blood → binds to receptors on target organ → causes a response.



## DNA STRUCTURE

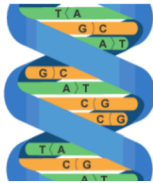
DNA = polymer made of repeating units → nucleotides.

- Each nucleotide = phosphate + deoxyribose sugar + base (A T C G) → forms sugar-phosphate backbone + bases inside strand → double helix shape



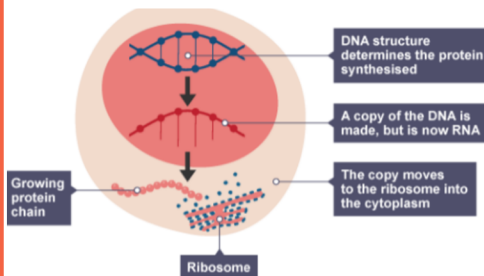
### BASE PAIRING

- A ↔ T | C ↔ G → held by hydrogen bonds → forms 'rungs' of the DNA ladder → base sequence = genetic code for proteins



### CODING FOR PROTEINS

- 3 bases = 1 amino acid (triplet code) → order of bases → order of amino acids → shape of protein → its function



### PROTEIN SYNTHESIS (HT)

- Transcription (in nucleus): DNA unwinds → gene copied to mRNA → mRNA leaves nucleus via pore
- Translation (at ribosome): ribosome reads mRNA triplets → tRNA brings matching amino acids → amino acids joined by peptide bonds → form protein chain → folds into functional protein

### RIBOSOME FUNCTION (HT)

- Ribosome 'reads' mRNA in triplets → each codes for one amino acid → joins them in correct order → chain released → folds into unique shape → specific function

### PROTEIN FUNCTIONS (HT)

- Enzymes = biological catalysts (speed up reactions) | Hormones = chemical messengers (e.g. insulin) | Structural proteins = support and strength (collagen)

### MUTATIONS (HT)

- Random DNA changes → can alter amino acid sequence → protein shape changes → function may change
- Types: Insertion (+ adds bases) | Deletion (- removes bases) | Substitution (one amino acid for another)
- Most mutations are harmless | some harmful (if enzyme no longer fits substrate / structural protein weakens)

### GENE SWITCHING (NON-CODING)

- Not all DNA codes for proteins → some regions switch genes on or off → control gene expression | Mutations here may alter whether genes are expressed or silenced

## GENETIC INHERITANCE

### KEY TERMS

- Gamete → sex cell (sperm/egg in animals, pollen/ovum in plants)
- Chromosome → thread of DNA carrying genes, found in nucleus
- Gene → short DNA section coding for a protein
- Allele → different version of the same gene
- Dominant → always expressed (1 copy needed)
- Recessive → only expressed if 2 copies present
- Homozygous → 2 same alleles (e.g. TT or tt)
- Heterozygous → 2 different alleles (e.g. Tt)
- Genotype → allele combination (TT, Tt, tt)
- Phenotype → physical characteristics (e.g. tall/short)

### MONOHYBRID

- Trait controlled by 1 gene
- Inheritance from each parent → 2 alleles
- Dominant (e.g. T) → expressed in phenotype
- Recessive (e.g. t) → only expressed if 2 copies are recessive
- Capital letter = dominant / lowercase = recessive
- Phenotype → tall (TT, Tt) / short (tt)
- Genotype → TT, Tt, tt
- Capital letter = dominant / lowercase = recessive

show allele combinations in Punnett

- Ratio of phenotypes can be calculated
- e.g. Tt x Tt → Tt, tt → 3 tall : 1 short
- Tt, tt, tt → 1 tall : 1 short

## INHERITED DISORDERS

Disorders passed on via alleles → e.g.: Cystic fibrosis (recessive) / polydactyly (dominant)

### CYSTIC FIBROSIS (recessive)

- ff = has disorder | Ff = carrier | FF = unaffected
- Ff x Ff → 25% ff / 50% Ff / 25% FF → 1 in 4 chance child has disorder
- Ff x FF → 0% ff (no child with disorder)

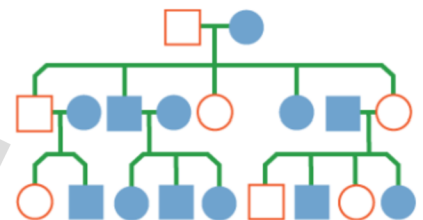
|        |        |    |
|--------|--------|----|
|        | Mother |    |
|        | F      | F  |
| Father | F      | FF |
|        | f      | Ff |

|        |        |    |
|--------|--------|----|
|        | Mother |    |
|        | F      | f  |
| Father | F      | FF |
|        | f      | Ff |

## INHERITANCE CONT.

### POLYGENIC INHERITANCE

- Traits controlled by multiple genes (e.g. eye colour, height)
- Wide range of phenotypes
- Not shown using Punnett squares
- Called polygenic inheritance
- Tip: many genes → many generations
- Rees (Punnett squares) = females
- Shaded = unaffected
- Horizontal line = parents / Vertical = offspring
- Use to work out carrier status / probability of inheritance
- PREDICTING PROBABILITIES (HT)
- 3:1 = 75% dominant trait / 25% recessive
- Calculate chances of phenotype appearing in next generation



☐ Affected male    ☒ Unaffected male  
☒ Affected female    ☐ Unaffected female

## INHERITED DISORDERS CONT.

### POLYDACTYLY (dominant, allele = D)

- Dd or DD = has disorder | dd = unaffected
- Dd x dd → 50% Dd (child with disorder) / 50% dd (no disorder)

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
|   | D  | d  |
| d | Dd | dd |
| d | Dd | dd |

### EMBRYO SCREENING

- Done in IVF → genes tested before implantation or from embryo in womb → detect disorders like CF
- For: avoids suffering / saves NHS money / laws stop abuse
- Against: unfair (seen as 'undesirable') / expensive / risk of misuse ('designer babies')

### GENE THERAPY

- Inserts normal allele into DNA → replaces faulty one
- Still developing / not always successful
- Raises ethical issues (unnatural vs easing suffering)



## LEVELS OF ORGANISATION

### PRODUCERS

- Photosynthetic organisms → make their own food using sunlight → producers of biomass
- Start of every food chain → photosynthesise → make glucose → used for growth + respiration
- In extreme environments → chemoautotrophs (use chemicals instead of light)

### FOOD CHAINS

- Show transfer of energy → from Sun → producer → primary consumer → secondary → tertiary
- Arrows = direction of energy flow
- E.g. Grass → Mouse → Owl
- Producer → makes own food
- Primary consumer → eats producer
- Secondary consumer → eats primary consumer

### INVESTIGATING ECOSYSTEMS

- Ecology = study of interactions between organisms + environment
- Quadrats (wood/wire square) used to:
- Measure abundance of plants or slow-moving animals
- Record number of species, species richness, % cover
- → % cover =  $(\text{squares covered} \div \text{total squares}) \times 100$

### TRANSECTS

- Measure species abundance across changing habitats (e.g. hillside, shoreline)
- Place quadrat at regular intervals (e.g. every 5m)
- Record → individual counts / richness / % cover
- Used to link abiotic factors (light, altitude) to species abundance

### ABUNDANCE OF ORGANISMS

- You should know how to calculate:
- Mean → Add all values ÷ total quadrats
- Median → Middle value (or average of two middle values)
- Mode → Most common value

### FEEDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Producers → eaten by primary consumers
- Predators = secondary consumers | Prey = primary consumers
- Predator-prey cycles:
- More prey → predator ↑ → prey ↓ → predator ↓ → prey ↑ → repeats
- Cycles are out of phase (predator peak follows prey peak)

## REQUIRED PRACTICAL 9

**AIM:** Measure population size of a species and the effect of a factor on its distribution.

### MEASURING POPULATION SIZE

- Method Overview: Quadrats used to sample randomly → reduces time + avoids bias.
- Sample must be large enough + representative of the population.
- Steps:
- Lay out area (e.g. 10 m x 10 m).
- Use random number generator to place quadrats.
- Count chosen species in each quadrat.
- Record data in a table.
- Estimate population:
- Population =  $(\text{total area} \div \text{area sampled}) \times \text{total counted}$

### INVESTIGATING EFFECT OF A FACTOR ON DISTRIBUTION

- Using a Transect
- Steps: Place tape across area through changing habitats (e.g. on a slope)
- Place quadrat at regular intervals (e.g. every 5 m).
- Count species + measure factor (e.g. altitude).
- Record data in a table.
- Conclusion:
- As altitude increases, the number of dandelions decreases.
- Higher altitude = fewer dandelions.

## DECOMPOSITION

- Decomposers (bacteria, fungi, etc.) break down dead organic matter.
- Returns nutrients to the soil (recycling).
- Rate of decay = speed at which organic matter is broken down.
- Factors affecting rate of decay:
- Temperature → Enzymes work faster at warmer temps ↑ rate | Enzymes denature ↓ rate = reactions slow (e.g. in a fridge).
- Availability of oxygen → Microbes need water to secrete enzymes & absorb nutrients. Dry = little/no decay.
- Availability of nutrients → Needed for growth.

### FACTORS AFFECTING RATE OF DECAY

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### INVESTIGATING DECAY

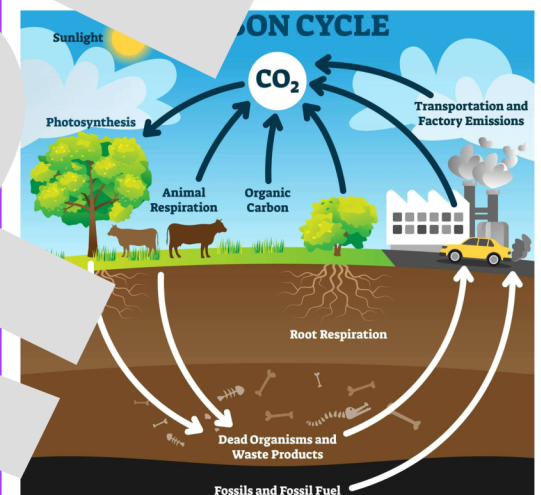
- Example: Milk pH at 10°C, 20°C, 30°C over time.
- → Higher temp = faster pH drop = faster decay.
- Formula:  $\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Change in value}}{\text{Change in time}}$

## HOW MATERIALS ARE CYCLED

- Materials cycle through biotic + abiotic components.
- Elements (e.g. carbon) are finite, so must be recycled to support new organisms.

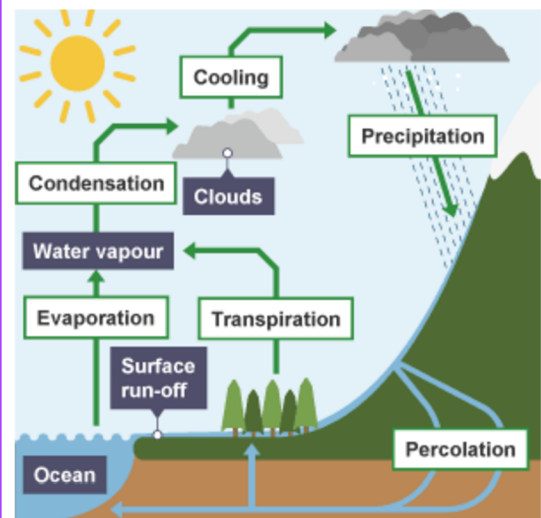
### CARBON CYCLE

- Plants remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere through photosynthesis.
- Animals eat plants → release CO<sub>2</sub> through respiration.
- Decomposition: breakdown of dead organisms → returns CO<sub>2</sub>
- Fossilisation: under pressure and no decomposition → fossil fuels
- Combustion of fossil fuels → releases CO<sub>2</sub>
- Processes: Photosynthesis: removes CO<sub>2</sub>, Respiration: releases CO<sub>2</sub>, Decomposition: returns CO<sub>2</sub>, Combustion: returns CO<sub>2</sub>



### WATER CYCLE

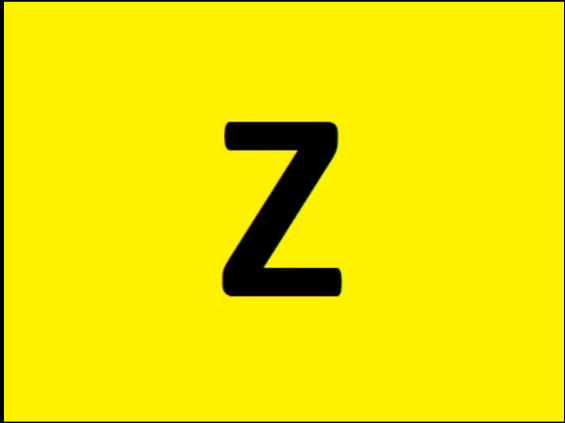
- Evaporation: Sun heats water → liquid to gas
- Transpiration: Water vapour released from leaves
- Condensation: Vapour cools → clouds
- Precipitation: Water falls as rain/snow/sleet
- Run-off, percolation, and root absorption return water to oceans



### ROLE OF MICROORGANISMS

- Decomposers (bacteria/fungi) break down waste + dead organisms → return CO<sub>2</sub> + minerals to environment
- During decay: respiration returns CO<sub>2</sub> to atmosphere
- Decomposition recycles materials (e.g. nitrates, magnesium)



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**Z**

**MR. ZEE'S RESOURCES**