Oxford A Level Sciences

OCR Biology A

16 Plant responses Answers to practice questions

Question number	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1 (a)	1 to cope with changing conditions / AW; 2 avoid abiotic stress; 3 to maximise photosynthesis or to obtain more, light / water / minerals; ora 4 avoid, herbivory / grazing; 5 to ensure, germination in suitable conditions / pollination / seed set / seed dispersal;	2 max	1 Looking for a general statement DO NOT CREDIT "adapt to change" 3 CREDIT named elements / ions IGNORE nutrients 4 methods of preventing grazing could include producing more toxins / more spines / encouraging stinging ants IGNORE predation 5 DO NOT CREDIT 'maximise reproduction' without further qualification
1 (b) (i)	1 in water / in A / with no abscisic acid, germination increases as conc. GA increases; 2 when abscisic acid present / in B, no germination; 3 maximum germination 90% with 5 mol dm ⁻³ GA, in water / without abscisic acid; 4 2 comparative figures (x and y refs. plus units); 5 GA concentration increases, logarithmically / by a factor of 10, on x axis; 6 10 times more GA gives, 3 (conc 0.05 to 0.5) / 0.5 (conc 0.5 to 5), times more germination;	4 max	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \text{ DO NOT CREDIT} \\ \text{'inhibits germination'} \\ \text{(as this is a} \\ \text{conclusion not a} \\ \text{description)} \\ 3 \text{ ACCEPT 91% (±} \\ 2\%) \text{ for 90\%} \\ 4 \text{ EITHER compare} \\ \text{A and B at the same} \\ \text{GA conc} \\ \text{OR two points on} \\ \text{same line} \\ \text{with units for both} \\ \hline \begin{array}{c} \text{GA} & \text{A} \\ \text{conc} \\ \text{(%)} \\ \text{(mol} \\ \text{dm}^3) \\ \hline \\ 0 \\ 10 \pm 0 \\ 2 \\ \hline \\ 0.05 \\ 22 \pm 0 \\ 2 \\ \hline \\ 0.5 \\ 66 \pm 0 \\ 2 \\ \hline \\ 5 \\ 91 \pm 0 \\ 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$
1 (b) (ii)	<i>gibberellin</i> hydrolysis of starch; glucose used for respiration; ATP/energy, required for germination; <i>abscisic</i> acid inhibits cell growth so germination;	4	
1 (b) (iii)	 1 so temperature doesn't affect results / so only desired variable(s) changed / to show just the effect of plant hormones; 2 since temperature affects enzyme activity; 	2 max	1 ACCEPT fair test IGNORE to control temperature / temperature is a

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	3 suitable / optimum, temperature for (lettuce) germination;		limiting factor / temperature is a controlled variable 2 CREDIT "optimum temperature for enzyme activity" or "this is the temperature when enzymes work best" 3 ACCEPT 'these' seeds
1 (b) (iv)	1 volumes of liquid(s); 2 ABA concentration; 3 oxygen availability; 4 age of seeds; 5 previous storage of seeds / viability idea; 6 genotype / variety, of seeds; 7 size / type of, petri dish / filter paper; 8 length of time experiment left for (before recording results); 9 space between seeds; 10 AVP;	3 max	Mark the FIRST suggestion on each numbered line DO NOT CREDIT conc, GA / giberrellin (as this is the independent variable) IGNORE number of seeds (as given in the question) 1 DO NOT CREDIT amounts / levels CREDIT volume of, water / GA / ABA 3 IGNORE carbon dioxide 6 CREDIT "from same batch of seeds" or "seeds from same plant" 10 e.g. light qualified (duration / intensity / wavelength) use of distilled water all lids, off / on
1 (c)	 1 seedless, fruits / grapes; 2 weed killers; 3 rooting powder / to grow cuttings / used in tissue culture; 4 control fruit ripening; 5 controls fruit drop; 6 restrict hedge growth; 7 preserve, cut flowers / green vegetables; 8 specific example of improved fruit quality; 9 producing malt / in brewing; 10 AVP; 11 AVP; 	2 max	Mark the FIRST TWO suggestions IGNORE the names of plant growth regulators 4 could be used to speed up or slow down 8 e.g. longer stalks on grapes longer apples 10 & 11 e.g. promoting sexual maturity in conifers promoting latex flow in rubber plants promoting sexual maturity in female cucumber plants

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2 (a)	auxin / IAA; (positive) phototropism;	4 max	longer nodes in sugar cane restricting growth in, chrysanthemums / other e.g. IGNORE other named hormones
	plants / shoots, bend towards light; etiolation / plants grow taller; climbing plants climb, up / over, other plants; (positive) thigmotropism / sense of touch; grow roots towards, water / minerals; allelopathy / description;		IGNORE apical dominance DO NOT ACCEPT phototrophic / thigmotrophic (but penalise once) IGNORE move, grow IGNORE nutrients
2 (b)	Auxins, apical dominance / tropisms / example described; gibberellins, growth / germination / flowering; ethylene, ripening / aging / abscission; abscisic acid, dormancy;	4	
3 (a)	Not all plant hormones are responsible for plant growth; idea that hormones are chemical messengers; (role in) cell communication; reference to target cells; wide range of effects; long-term effects;	5	
3 (b)	Gibberellin Image: Constraint of the second se	4	
3 (c)	<i>Both</i> plant hormones; <i>auxins</i> apical dominance / growth of lateral buds suppressed; delays abscission; promotes cell elongation; <i>cytokinins</i> fruit growth; promotes abscission; promotes cell division;	6	
4 (a) (i)	Control plants leaf, number and surface area, relatively constant; stressed plants leaf, number and surface area, decreased with time; figures quote;	3	
4 (a) (ii)	Growth / development, reduced; lack of water caused stomatal closure; reduced carbon dioxide uptake; reduced photosynthesis;	3	
4 (b)	Reduced auxin concentration due to lower light intensity (in the autumn); stimulates the production of ethene; ethene switches on genes; in cells of abscission zone; enzymes produced; (enzymes) digest cell walls (in cells of abscission zone);	5	
4 (c)	Both result in loss of leaves; due to action of hormones; different hormones; abscisic acid in autumn leaves; ethene in water stressed leaves;	5	