23 Ecosystems Answers to practice questions

Question number	Answer	Marks	Guidance		
1 (a) (i)	Secondary succession, does not begin with bare ground.	1			
1 (a) (ii)	To change the habitat; allowing different species to colonise;	2			
1 (b) (i)	Pioneer species; formation of soil;	2			
1 (b) (ii)	Outcompeted; by grasses and shrubs and trees;	2			
1 (b) (iii)	Climax community	1			
1 (c) (i)	Live increases and then plateaus; detritus decreases and then plateaus; total decreases, increases and then plateaus; soil increases and then plateaus; figures quote;	4 max			
1 (c) (ii)	Soil would increase from zero; live would start above zero; the total would not drop; detritus would not decrease as much;	4			
1 (d) (i)	Increase in net primary productivity; to a peak / then decrease; figures quote;	3			
1 (d) (ii)	Increase in biomass; as succession progresses; climax community is stable so energy is no longer accumulated;	3			
2 (a) (i)	Position in food, chain / web at which an organism feeds	1			
2 (a) (ii)	A 2; B 1;	2			
2 (a) (iii)	Biomass; e.g. more aphids than trees;	2			
2 (a) (iv)	Along the side; from top to bottom;	2			
3 (a)	Light intensity; carbon dioxide concentration; nutrient availability; competition; reference to pests;	5			
3 (b) (i)	Representative; capture as many organisms as possible; mark captured organisms; harmless method; release individuals; recapture;	3 max			
3 (b) (ii)	Marking may harm organism; capturing organism may cause harm; marks may be lost; marks may change interactions of organisms; some organisms may be easier to capture / organisms may learn to avoid capture; ORA	5			
3 (c)	208 / 10 357 = 24 064 / n; 24 064 / (208 / 10 357) = 1 197 214 91;	2			
3 (d)	More accurate; decreases random error;	2			
3 (e)	Increase time before recapture;	1			
4 (a)	climate - tropical versus temperate tropical has higher temperature / hotter; more (sun)light / days longer; photosynthesis faster; idea that	4 max	temperature light intensity photosynthesis	tropical higher more more	temperate lower less less



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4 (b)	more storage of , organic molecules / biomass / energy or more formation of , organic molecules / biomass; AVP; vegetation - woodland or rainforest versus grassland(s) woodland or forest has idea of greater complexity / greater biodiversity / more niches; competition for space less limiting; AVP; (bomb) calorimeter;	2 max	eg less seasonal change faster , mineral cycling / decomposition CREDIT reverse arguments for grassland wood grassland complexity more less competition less more eg greater , humidity / shelter eg known / dry , mass of (organic		
4 (0)	detail of technique; detail of , measurement / analysis;	Zillax	material) (material) burnt in oxygen eg temperature rise of water measured known volume of water calculation described / converted to kJ		
4 (c) (i)	(perch) 22; (cow) 1;	2			
4 (c) (ii)	higher in bobcat / lower in cow; for bobcat more (energy) absorbed; ora less (energy / waste) egested; ora correct comparative figs. quoted from table; meat more digestible; ora mainly protein and fat; contains no cellulose; ora		DO NOT CREDIT figs alone IGNORE refs to grasshopper and perch ALLOW ecf if cow calculated as > 6 in (i) bobcat 83(%) and cow 40(%) (absorbed) or bobcat 17(%) and cow 60(%) (egested)		
4 (c) (iii)	grasshopper; idea of high conversion to biomass figure; idea of herbivore / primary consumer / low(er) trophic level than perch; idea of more food available; idea of one stage of energy loss in food chain not two / more energy passes through food chain (to humans);	3 max			