

National Qualifications 2016

X707/77/02

## Biology Section 1 — Questions

MONDAY, 9 MAY 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Instructions for the completion of Section 1 are given on *Page 02* of your question and answer booklet X707/77/01.

Record your answers on the answer grid on Page 03 of your question and answer booklet.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your question and answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.





## SECTION 1 — 25 marks Attempt ALL questions

1. An experiment was set up to measure the activity of an enzyme using a substrate that produced a coloured product. The absorbance of the coloured product was measured using a colorimeter.

Which row in the table describes the variable being measured?

	discrete	continuous	qualitative	quantitative
А	1		1	
В	1			✓
С		$\checkmark$	1	
D		<i>✓</i>		1

2. The diagram below shows the cell types used in the production of monoclonal antibodies.



Which row in the table identifies cell types 1, 2 and 3?

	Cell type 1	Cell type 2	Cell type 3
А	B lymphocyte	myeloma	hybridoma
В	myeloma	hybridoma	B lymphocyte
С	hybridoma	myeloma	B lymphocyte
D	myeloma	B lymphocyte	hybridoma

3. The diagram below represents a transmembrane protein. Some of the amino acids in the protein have been identified.



Which row in the table classifies the amino acids shown in this protein?

	Arginine (Arg)	Alanine (Ala)	Leucine (Leu)	Serine (Ser)
А	polar	hydrophobic	hydrophobic	polar
В	hydrophobic	polar	hydrophobic	polar
С	polar	hydrophobic	polar	hydrophobic
D	hydrophobic	polar	polar	hydrophobic

[Turn over

Questions 4 and 5 refer to the following information.

During muscle contraction, the protein myosin moves along an actin protein filament by the head of the myosin detaching from the actin, swinging forward and rebinding, as shown in the diagram.



4. This reversible conformational change can be brought about by binding of ATP to the myosin head followed by hydrolysis and release of phosphate and ADP.

The myosin head is acting as

- A a kinase
- B an ATPase
- C a proteinase
- D a phosphatase.
- 5. When the myosin head detaches and swings forward it moves a distance of 36 nanometres (nm). Myosin has been observed to move at a speed of  $18 \times 10^3$  nm s<sup>-1</sup>. How many times will the myosin head detach and swing forward in one second?
  - A 50
  - B 200
  - C 500
  - D 2000
- 6. In animal rod cells rhodopsin absorbs a photon of light initiating the following cell events.
  - 1 nerve impulse is generated
  - 2 sufficient product formation is triggered
  - 3 activation of hundreds of G-protein molecules
  - 4 activation of hundreds of molecules of an enzyme

The correct order of events is

- A 4, 2, 1, 3
- B 3, 4, 2, 1
- C 4, 3, 1, 2
- D 3, 2, 4, 1.

- 7. In multicellular organisms, only target cells respond to a specific signal because
  - A signalling molecules only come into contact with target cells
  - B only target cells have receptor molecules for the signalling molecule
  - C non-target cells do not respond when the signalling molecule binds to its receptor
  - D receptor molecules in non-target cells do not change conformation when the signalling molecule binds.
- **8.** The hormone thyroxine is
  - A hydrophobic and unable to pass through the cell membrane
  - B hydrophilic and unable to pass through the cell membrane
  - C hydrophobic and able to pass through the cell membrane
  - D hydrophilic and able to pass through the cell membrane.
- **9.** Biological molecules move over short distances by diffusion. The time taken for diffusion can be calculated using the equation below.

 $t = \frac{x^2}{2D}$  t = time taken (seconds) x = distance travelled by the diffusing molecule (cm) D = diffusion co-efficient (cm<sup>2</sup> per second)

Acetylcholine is a neurotransmitter with a diffusion co-efficient of  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  cm<sup>2</sup> per second. The gap across the synapse is  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  cm wide.

How many seconds would it take acetylcholine to cross the synapse?

- A 1.250
- $B \qquad 6{\boldsymbol{\cdot}}250\times 10^{-6}$
- $C \qquad 3 \cdot 125 \times 10^{-6}$
- $D \qquad 1{\cdot}600\times 10^{-6}$
- **10.** Type 1 diabetes is caused by
  - A excessive production of insulin
  - B loss of insulin receptor function
  - C failure of GLUT4 to respond to insulin binding
  - D insufficient production of insulin.

**11.** An enzyme-controlled reaction is taking place in optimum conditions in the presence of a large surplus of substrate.

Conditions can be altered by

- 1 increasing the temperature
- 2 adding a positive modulator
- 3 increasing enzyme concentration
- 4 increasing substrate concentration.

Product yield would be increased by

- A 1 and 2
- B 2 and 3
- C 2 and 4
- D 3 and 4.
- **12.** At which phase of the cell cycle is the retinoblastoma protein phosphorylated allowing progression to the next phase of the cycle?
  - A G1
  - B S
  - C G2
  - D M

**13.** The diagram below shows possible outcomes for a cell following DNA damage. Protein X is involved in all three outcomes.



#### Protein X is

- A Rb
- B p53
- C Cdk
- D caspase.
- 14. Two reagents used in testing for the presence of carbohydrates are iodine solution, which turns blue-black in the presence of starch, and Benedict's solution, which turns brick red in the presence of maltose.

In an investigation of the breakdown of starch into maltose by the enzyme amylase, which of the following would be a positive control?

- A Maltose alone turns Benedict's solution brick red.
- B Starch treated with amylase turns Benedict's solution brick red.
- C Starch alone tested with Benedict's solution remains blue.
- D Starch treated with amylase does not change the colour of iodine solution.

[Turn over

**15.** The diagram below shows some phyla in the animal kingdom.



Which row in the table identifies the phyla X, Y and Z?

	Phylum						
	Х	Y	Ζ				
А	Chordata	Nematoda	Arthropoda				
В	Arthropoda	Nematoda	Chordata				
С	Nematoda	Arthropoda	Chordata				
D	Arthropoda	Chordata	Nematoda				

- **16.** Which of the following descriptions of animal behaviour avoids the use of anthropomorphism?
  - A In some primate species, alpha males often bully lower-ranking animals.
  - B In late summer, worker bees like to visit heather flowers.
  - C The grin on the chimpanzee's face showed that it was amused by the gesture.
  - D The male moth is attracted to the female by the scent molecules that she emits.
- 17. A population of chafer beetles were damaging the tees and greens of a golf course. Results from a mark and recapture study suggested a population size that was too small to account for the extent of the damage caused.

One possible reason for this is that the

- A white paint used to mark the beetles washed off some of them before the recapture
- B white paint used to mark the beetles made them more visible to predators than unmarked beetles
- C total number of beetles in the recaptured sample was less than the number first captured and marked
- D marked beetles did not have enough time, after release, to spread out and mix with the rest of the population.

**18.** Ellis-van Creveld syndrome is a rare genetic condition. It is much more common in an isolated population in North America, which was founded by a small number of individuals, than in the general population.

The most likely explanation for this is

- A natural selection
- B sexual selection
- C random mutation
- D genetic drift.
- **19.** The frequency of a given allele in a population is a measure of how common that allele is as a proportion of the total number of copies of all alleles at a specific locus. For a locus with one dominant allele (A) and one recessive allele (a), the frequency of the dominant allele (p) and the frequency of the recessive allele (q) can be used to calculate the genetic variation of a population using the equations below.

p + q = 1	p q	= frequency of A allele = frequency of a allele
$p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$	p <sup>2</sup> q <sup>2</sup> 2pq	<ul> <li>= frequency of homozygous (AA) individuals</li> <li>= frequency of homozygous (aa) individuals</li> <li>= frequency of heterozygous (Aa) individuals</li> </ul>

If the allele frequency of the recessive allele is 0.7, the proportion of individuals that would be heterozygous is

- A 0.09
- B 0.21
- C 0.42
- D 0.49.

[Turn over

**20.** In the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* the gene for eye colour is sex-linked. The allele for red eye (R) is dominant to the allele for white eye (r).

A cross between two flies produced the offspring shown in the table below.

Sex of offspring	Number with white eyes	Number with red eyes	
female	23	22	
male	21	22	

The genotypes of the parents in this cross were

- A  $X^rX^r$  and  $X^RY$
- B X<sup>R</sup>X<sup>r</sup> and X<sup>r</sup>Y
- C  $X^{R}X^{r}$  and  $X^{R}Y$
- D  $X^{R}X^{R}$  and  $X^{r}Y$ .
- **21.** Which row in the table best describes r-selected species?

	Number of offspring	Offspring survival rate	Parental care
A	many	low	little
В	few	high	extensive
С	many	high	extensive
D	few	low	little

22. Shags and cormorants both belong to the genus *Phalacrocorax*. They look very similar and nest near each other on the same cliffs. The table below shows the main components of each bird's diet.

	Percentage composition of diet				
Prey	Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis)	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)			
sand eels	33	0			
sprats	49	1			
flatfish	1	26			
shrimps	2	33			
gobies	4	17			
other fish	4	18			

The data in the table show

- A competitive exclusion
- B competition within each species
- C resource partitioning
- D the fundamental niche of each species.

[Turn over

**23.** A species of parasitic wasp (*Nasonia vitripennis*) lays its eggs in the larvae of flies where the eggs develop. This species displays a behaviour called "*superparasitism*" where, following the laying of eggs by one wasp, a second wasp may superparasitise the same host by also laying its eggs.

Researchers investigated the effects of superparasitism on the brood size and sex ratio of offspring in this species. Results were compared to a control that had been parasitised only once. Researchers were able to distinguish between the offspring of the first and second wasp.

Results are shown in the table below.

	Degree of parasitism				
Offspring	Superpa	rasitism	Cingle paracitism control		
	Wasp 1	Wasp 2			
brood size	18 ± 3	17 ± 4	20 ± 2		
percentage of males	7 ± 2	22 ± 4	6 ± 1		

The following statements refer to the data in the table.

- 1 Superparasitism significantly increased the percentage of males produced by both wasp 1 and wasp 2.
- 2 Superparasitism significantly increased the percentage of males produced by wasp 2 only.
- 3 Superparasitism had no significant effect on brood size.
- 4 Superparasitism significantly decreased the brood size produced by wasps 1 and 2.

Which of these statements are valid conclusions supported by the data?

- A 1 and 3
- B 1 and 4
- C 2 and 3
- D 2 and 4

- 24. The statements below describe events that occur following the engulfing of a pathogen by a phagocyte of the mammalian immune system.
  - P long term survival of lymphocytes
  - Q antigen presentation to lymphocytes
  - R antibody production by lymphocytes
  - S clonal selection of B lymphocytes

The correct sequence in which these events occur is

- A Q, R, S, P
- B R, Q, P, S
- C S, Q, P, R
- D Q, S, R, P.
- **25.** Florida scrubjays have evolved a co-operative breeding system in which helper birds assist breeding pairs in raising young. The table below compares the effect of helpers on the breeding success of birds that are either experienced or inexperienced breeders.

Breeding experience	Average number o	f offspring reared	
of breeding pairs	Without helpers	With helpers	
inexperienced	1.24	2.20	
experienced	1.80	2.38	

Helpers increase the average number of offspring reared by inexperienced breeding pairs compared to experienced breeding pairs by

- A 19%
- B 23%
- C 45%
- D 60%.

#### [END OF SECTION 1. NOW ATTEMPT THE QUESTIONS IN SECTION 2 OF YOUR QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET]

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	FOR OFFICIAL U National	ations				
	2016				Mark	
X707/77/01			Se	ction 1 -	B <sup>.</sup> — Answe and Sec	iology r Grid tion 2
MONDAY, 9 MAY						
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM						
Full name of centre			To	wn		
Forename(s)	Su	urname			Number	of seat
Date of birth						
Day Month	Year	Scotti	sh candi	date number		
Total marks — 90						

SECTION 1 — 25 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Instructions for completion of Section 1 are given on Page 02.

#### SECTION 2 — 65 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

A Supplementary Sheet for Question 1 is enclosed inside the front cover of this question paper. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided in this booklet. Additional space for answers and rough work is provided at the end of this booklet. If you use this space you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting. Any rough work must be written in this booklet. You should score through your rough work when you have written your final copy.

#### Use blue or black ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give this booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not you may lose all the marks for this paper.





The questions for Section 1 are contained in the question paper X707/77/02.

Read these and record your answers on the answer grid on Page 03 opposite.

Use **blue** or **black** ink. Do NOT use gel pens or pencil.

- 1. The answer to each question is **either** A, B, C or D. Decide what your answer is, then fill in the appropriate bubble (see sample question below).
- 2. There is **only one correct** answer to each question.
- 3. Any rough working should be done on the additional space for answers and rough work at the end of this booklet.

#### Sample Question

The thigh bone is called the

- A humerus
- B femur
- C tibia
- D fibula.

The correct answer is **B** — femur. The answer **B** bubble has been clearly filled in (see below).



#### Changing an answer

If you decide to change your answer, cancel your first answer by putting a cross through it (see below) and fill in the answer you want. The answer below has been changed to **D**.



If you then decide to change back to an answer you have already scored out, put a tick ( $\checkmark$ ) to the **right** of the answer you want, as shown below:







	Α	В	С	D
1	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
12	0	0	0	0
13	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
14	0	0	0	0
15	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
16	0	0	0	0
17	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0
18	0	0	0	0
19	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0
20	0	0	0	0
21	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	0
24	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0

SECTION 1 — Answer Grid



Page 03

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Read	thro quest	ough the Supplementary Sheet for Question 1 before attempting tion.	
(a)	Refer	to Figure 2 in the Supplementary Sheet for Question 1.	
	(i)	Use the data to describe the egg-laying of uninfected mosquitoes.	2
	(ii)	If the box plots were perfectly symmetrical, mean values for egg-laying would be very close to median values.	
		State what can be deduced about the <b>mean</b> number of eggs laid by infected mosquitoes in relation to the median value.	1
	(iii)	Describe the effect that <i>Plasmodium</i> infection has on the fecundity of mosquitoes used in the study.	1
(b)	Refer	• to Figure 3 in the Supplementary Sheet for Question 1.	
	(i)	The data shows that infection by <i>Plasmodium</i> appears to increase the longevity of female mosquitoes.	
		Explain why the difference between the two groups can be regarded as significant.	1
	(ii)	Suggest a benefit to the parasite of its vector living longer.	1

MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN (continued) 1. (c) Refer to Figure 4 in the Supplementary Sheet for Question 1. (i) Explain what the lines of best fit indicate about the relationship between longevity and fecundity in both infected and uninfected mosquitoes. 2 (ii) State, with justification, whether or not this data is reliable. 1 [Turn over 

Page 07

\* X 7 0 7 7 7 0 1 0 7 \*

THIS Scientists have reported that neurons produced in cell culture from human 2. stem cells have the potential to function when grafted into the site of a spinal injury in rats. (a) State why the cell culture medium in which the neurons were cultured should contain serum. 1 (b) Scientists used a haemocytometer to perform a cell count to calculate the number of stem cells that developed into neurons. The diagram below represents a sample from a culture placed in a haemocytometer and viewed under a microscope. The grid is **0**•1 mm in depth. 1 mm Key: --{ŏ⊱ Neuron ○ Stem cell 1 mm Σĝ  $\bigcirc$ Ο Ο 鉸 (i) Calculate the number of **neurons** in 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of the culture. 1 Space for calculation \_ neurons (ii) Suggest one disadvantage of cell counts performed using the 1 haemocytometer.

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# MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN C. (continued) (c) Bright field microscopy was used to view the cells grafted into the site of spinal injury. State another type of biological material that can be viewed using bright field microscopy. (d) In studies involving animals, state one way in which harm to the animals can be minimised. 1

[Turn over



MARKS | DO NOT Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological condition in which the body's immune 3. system destroys the myelin sheath that surrounds and insulates nerve axons.

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1

A clinical study was carried out into the effects of a new drug interferon beta-1b for this condition. A randomised trial, with a negative control group (placebo), was carried out across four different health centres. During the study patients were given one of three treatments: 0.00 mg (placebo), 0.05 mg or 0.25 mg interferon. The patients administered the drug themselves at home.

The study measured how effective the drug was by asking patients to record any worsening of symptoms after 2 years of treatment. The study involved 372 patients aged 18-50 years. Fourteen patients dropped out before completing the trial.

Patients' results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Level of interferon beta-1b in treatment (mg)	Proportion of patients reporting no worsening of symptoms after 2 years of treatment (%)
0.00	16
0.05	18
0.25	25

At one health centre 52 patients were MRI scanned every 6 weeks to monitor any new damage to nerve tissue. The results are shown in Table 2.

#### Table 2

Level of interferon beta-1b in treatment (mg)	Proportion of patients showing new nerve damage (%)
0.00	29
0.05	no data recorded
0.25	6

(a) Identify the independent variable in this trial.

(b) This trial was carried out in vivo. State one advantage of this type of trial.



-			MARKS	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
3.	<b>(co</b> r (c)	ntinued) Explain why a placebo group was included in this trial.	1	
			-	
	(d)	Suggest <b>one</b> way in which the results of the trial may not be reliable.	1	
	(e)	Describe an ethical issue that the researchers would need to consider before this trial.	1	
	(f)	Suggest <b>two</b> conclusions that can be drawn from the results of this trial.	2	
		Conclusion 2	-	
		[Turn over		



4. Sickle cell anaemia is an inherited blood disorder that reduces the ability of red blood cells to transport oxygen round the body by changing the structure of haemoglobin.

In sickle cell anaemia, the primary structure of a haemoglobin subunit is altered; the amino acid glutamic acid is substituted by the amino acid valine.

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The structures of glutamic acid and valine are shown below.



- (a) State the class of amino acids to which valine belongs.
- (b) Identify **one** type of secondary structure shown in the haemoglobin molecule in the figure below.







Page 13

[Turn over

		MARKS	I   V
5.	Describe the structure of spindle fibres and explain their role in the movement of chromosomes during cell division.	4	





MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN Binding of antidiuretic hormone (ADH) to its receptor on the plasma 7. membrane of kidney collecting duct cells triggers the recruitment of water channel proteins as shown below. Extracellular ADH Plasma membrane Intracellular Activated G proteins recruit water channel proteins (a) (i) Name the water channel protein involved in this process. 1 (ii) Name the process by which a response within the cell is triggered by the binding of ADH to its cell surface receptor. 1



#### 7. (continued)

(b) A urine output of greater than 0.05 litres per kg body mass per day is considered diagnostic of diabetes insipidus. The bar chart below shows the urine output over 6 days of a 70 kg individual being investigated for diabetes insipidus. During days 3 and 4 the individual was treated with the drug *desmopressin*, a synthetic form of ADH.



(i) Use the data to confirm that a diagnosis of diabetes insipidus is correct for this individual.

Space for calculation

- (ii) Give evidence from the graph that supports the conclusion that *desmopressin* is an effective treatment.
- (iii) Diabetes insipidus results from failure to recruit water channel proteins to the cell membrane.

Identify the cause of recruitment failure in this individual.



Page 17

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MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

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MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN The diagram below shows the pairing of homologous chromosomes in a cell 8. undergoing meiosis. chiasma formation (a) Name the type of cell that undergoes meiosis. 1 (b) (i) Explain how the chiasma formation between the paired homologous chromosomes shown in the diagram leads to variation. 2 (ii) Name the process that ensures haploid gametes produced by meiosis contain a mixture of chromosomes of maternal and paternal origin. 1



[Turn over for next question

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**9.** In 1971, biologists moved five adult pairs of Italian wall lizards (*Podarcis sicula*) from their small home island of Kopiste to the neighbouring small island of Mrcaru, which did not have a lizard population. On their return in 2005 Mrcaru was found to have a large population of *P. sicula* (confirmed by genetic analysis) with significantly larger heads and a greater bite force than the lizards from Kopiste. Their digestive systems were also found to contain microorganisms that assist in the breakdown of plant cell walls.

The summer diets of the two lizard populations are shown below.



- Island
- (a) Describe the most significant change in the summer diet of the lizards on Mrcaru.



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9	(cor	ntinue	ch)	MARKS
	(b)	(i)	Explain how the information supports the conclusion that the changes to the lizard population on Mrcaru were the result of natural selection.	2
		(ii)	Evolution of the lizards on Mrcaru occurred very rapidly. State <b>one</b> factor that can increase the rate of evolution.	1
	(c)	This popu	study involved taking representative samples of the lizard ilations on the two islands.	
		State	e one feature of a representative sample.	1
			[Turn over	



**10.** The Figures below show male and female capercaillies (*Tetrao urogallus*) which are found in some Scottish pine forests. Males are much larger and darker than females and the breast feathers of the male have a metallic green sheen.



male capercaillie



MARKS DO NOT

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female capercaillie

- (a) State the term used to indicate the different body forms of males and females belonging to this species.
- (b) Capercaillies are a lekking species. Males perform displays during which they fan their tails, hold their wings down and make a variety of sounds. These features, which are attractive to females, are thought to serve as honest signals.
  - (i) Explain what is meant by a lekking species.
  - (ii) Explain why this display is often given as an example of sexual selection.
  - (iii) If the display provides honest signals, state the benefit that may be obtained by females receiving these signals.



MARKS DO NOT THIS 1 (ii) Recent research has found that some peacocks emit hoots in the complete absence of females at the lek. Females are still attracted to the lek by these sounds. Such "solo" hoots have been described as "dishonest signals". Explain what is meant by a "dishonest signal" in this behaviour. 1 [Turn over for next question



- (c) Peacocks are the males of another lekking bird species, *Pavo cristatus*, whose natural habitat is the dense forests of South-East Asia. As well as the visual stimulus of a tail-feather display, peacocks, during mating, can emit a distinctive "hoot". These hoots are loud enough to be heard by other females, out of sight of the lek, who may be attracted by the calls and provide the dominant males at the lek with additional mating partners.
  - (i) Suggest why auditory stimuli are advantageous to species inhabiting forest ecosystems.

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			MARKS	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS		
11.	Answer <b>either A or B</b> in the space below and on <i>Page 25</i> .					
	Α	A Discuss reproduction under the following headings:				
		(i) costs and benefits of sexual reproduction;	4			
		(ii) asexual reproduction as a successful reproductive strategy.	5			
	OR					
	В	<b>B</b> Discuss endoparasitic infections under the following headings:				
		(i) difficulties involved in their treatment and control;	7			
		(ii) benefits of improved parasite control to human populations.	2			
	Lab	elled diagrams may be used where appropriate.				



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### SPACE FOR ANSWER FOR QUESTION 11

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]



#### MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

#### ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ANSWERS AND ROUGH WORK



#### MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

#### ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ANSWERS AND ROUGH WORK



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Question 4(b) - petarg/shutterstock.com

Question 10 – Bildagentur Zoonar GmbH/shutterstock.com

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National Qualifications 2016

X707/77/11

# Biology Supplementary Sheet

MONDAY, 9 MAY 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Supplementary Sheet for Question 1





1. Malaria is caused by unicellular parasites in the genus *Plasmodium*. Figure 1 shows the life cycle of the parasite with respect to its human and mosquito hosts.





Malaria is a well-researched tropical disease of humans, but less is known about the effects of the parasite on its mosquito vector.

The parasite *Plasmodium relictum* causes malaria in birds. A recent study has been carried out to investigate the effects of this parasite on the mosquito *Culex pipiens*. In particular, two aspects were investigated: fecundity (number of eggs laid) and longevity (measured as survival after egg laying) of the mosquitoes.

In Figure 2, box-and-whisker plots show the total egg production by large numbers of uninfected and infected female mosquitoes.





#### 1. (continued)

Figure 3 shows mean survival times after egg laying for uninfected and infected female mosquitoes.

Figure 3



Fecundity and longevity were measured in the same individual female mosquitoes to see if there was a relationship between the two variables.

The lines of best fit for mosquito survival against the number of eggs each female laid were plotted for uninfected females and infected females.

This data is shown in Figure 4.



#### Figure 4

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anna Rassadnikova/shutterstock.com agongallud/shutterstock.com