bio letters

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May 2026 Mock Examination

Markscheme

Biology

Higher level

Paper 1A

1105–2026

Preamble

- This paper is challenging. It is highly encouraged that you study well before attempting to solve it in order to get the most out of this mock exam.

- Simulate exam conditions as much as possible by timing yourself and not using aids like notes, search engines, etc.

- None of the questions here are from past papers, they are all written by me except for one question which I have referenced.

- Some questions in this paper may test multiple syllabus content statements. The connections of concepts to each other may be direct or indirect.

- The questions are roughly ordered from A1 to D1, A2 to D2, A3 to D3, and A4 to D4. This is how they are mostly presented in the Specimen Paper. Most of the questions also focus on the new additions in the syllabus that are AHL. The syllabus content statement(s) each question is addressing is/are indicated. Explanations are included for some questions, please ask your teacher for further clarification (if not possible, you can email me, but I will respond early May).

- The questions were designed following Bloom's Taxonomy; questions test recall (generally least difficult), comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation (generally most difficult) skills.

1. **D** A1.1.8

2. **C** A1.2.13

3. **C** B1.1.3

4. **A** B1.2.7

5. **A** C1.1.15

6. **B** C1.2.15

7. **A** C1.3.12

8. **B** D1.1.4

III is incorrect because monomers constitute any polymer, so knowledge of DNA structure alone is insufficient to enable biotechnological advancements like PCR.

9. **D** D1.2.19, A2.2.26

10. **C** D1.3.5

11. **C** A2.1.7

12. **B** A2.2.2

13. **B** A2.3.4, D1.3.9

14. **C** B2.1.16, B2.1.17

15. **B** B2.2.4, B2.2.5

16. **C** B2.3.1

17. **C** C2.1.10

18. **B** C2.2.10, C2.2.14

19. **B** D2.1.16

20. **A** D2.2.2

21. **D** D2.3.2

22. **C** A3.1.12

23. **B** A3.2.6

24. **D** B3.1.4, B3.1.7

25. **C** B3.2.7

26. **A** B3.3.6

27. **D** C3.1.11

28. **A** C3.2.17

29. **C** D3.1.13

30. D D3.2.7

31. D D3.3.8

32. D A4.1.8

33. A A4.2.7

34. B B4.2.1

35. D C4.1.7

36. C B4.1.3, B4.1.4

(C) is correct because the 2010 curves for both bumble bee species shifted to the right towards higher altitudes so that they could remain within their ranges of tolerance. (A) and (B) are incorrect because both species responded similarly. (D) is incorrect because there is not enough information to arrive at this conclusion.

37. C C4.2.19, C4.2.20

(C) is correct because a decline carbon fixation rates, aka photosynthesis rates, does not provide conclusive evidence of the causal link between CO_2 and the rising annual temperatures. The remainder of the options provide conclusive evidence.

38. A D4.1.7, D4.1.13, D4.1.14

39. B D4.2.14

40. D D4.3.3