

Monomers and polymers

Level: AQA AS 7401

Subject: Biology

Exam Board: Suitable for all boards

Topic: Monomers and polymers

Type: Mark Scheme

To be used by all students preparing for AQA AS Biology 7401 foundation or higher tier but also suitable for students of other boards.

Mark schemes

- 1**
- (a) 1. Hydrolysis breaks proteins / hydrolyses proteins / produces amino acids (from proteins);
2. Protein synthesis involves condensation; 2
- (b) Amino acids (from calliphorin) can be joined in different sequences / rearranged; 1
- (c) 1. Fall, rise and fall;
2. Rise after 40 and fall after 80;
Ignore concentration values. 2
- (d) (i) Fall / increase then fall;
- Lysosomes associated with tissue breakdown; 2
- (ii) 1. Tissues / cells are being broken down;
2. RNA is digested / hydrolysed / broken down;
3. By enzymes from lysosomes;
4. New proteins not made / no new RNA made; 2 max
- (e) 1. (RNA) associated with making protein;
2. New / adult tissues are forming; 2
- (f) 1. In the first 6 days no / little oxygen supplied / with breakdown of tracheae, no / little oxygen supplied;
2. (Without tracheae) respire anaerobically;
3. Anaerobic respiration involves reactions catalysed by enzyme **B** / conversion of pyruvate to lactate / involves lactate production;
4. Enzyme **A** / Krebs cycle is part of aerobic respiration;
Or, with emphasis on aerobic respiration:
1. Tracheae supply oxygen / after 6 days oxygen supplied;
2. (With tracheae) tissues can respire aerobically. 4

[15]



- 2**
- (a)
1. Helicase;
 2. Breaks hydrogen bonds;
 3. Only one DNA strand acts as template;
 4. RNA nucleotides attracted to exposed bases;
 5. (Attraction) according to base pairing rule;
 6. RNA polymerase joins (RNA) nucleotides together;
 7. Pre-mRNA spliced to remove introns.
- 6 max**
- (b)
1. Polymer of amino acids;
 2. Joined by peptide bonds;
 3. Formed by condensation;
 4. Primary structure is order of amino acids;
 5. Secondary structure is folding of polypeptide chain due to hydrogen bonding;
Accept alpha helix / pleated sheet
 6. Tertiary structure is 3-D folding due to hydrogen bonding and ionic / disulfide bonds;
 7. Quaternary structure is two or more polypeptide chains.
- 5 max**
- (c)
1. Hydrolysis of peptide bonds;
 2. Endopeptidases break polypeptides into smaller peptide chains;
 3. Exopeptidases remove terminal amino acids;
 4. Dipeptidases hydrolyse / break down dipeptides into amino acids.
- 4**
- 3**
- (a)
- (i) (Molecule) made up of many identical / similar molecules / monomers / subunits;
Not necessary to refer to similarity with monomers.
- 1**
- (ii) Cellulose / glycogen / nucleic acid / DNA / RNA;
- 1**
- (b)
- (i) To keep pH constant;
A change in pH will slow the rate of the reaction / denature the amylase / optimum for reaction;
- 2**
- (ii) Purple / lilac / mauve / violet;
Do not allow blue or pink.
- 1**
- (iii) Protein present / the enzyme / amylase is a protein;
Not used up in the reaction / still present at the end of the reaction;
- 2**
- [15]**
- [7]**



- 4** (a) Amino acid / amino acids ;
If anything else is given as well do not award mark. 1
- (b) (i) 1. Affects one monomer / amino acid;
i.e. What is affected
2. Not found in all active sites;
i.e. Where it is found.
2. Must relate to active site. Enzyme is insufficient. 2
- (ii) 1. **X**;
2. Enzyme in both pathways;
2. Award independently 2
- (c) 1. Occupies / blocks / binds to active site;
i.e. What it does in terms of the active site.
2. Substrate will not fit / does not bind / no longer complementary to / enzyme-substrate complex not formed;
1. Ignore references to change in shape and shape of aspirin molecule.
Ignore reference to competitive inhibitor i.e. Consequence required 2
- 5** (a) (i) both are polymers / polysaccharides / built up from many sugar units / both contain glycosidic bonds / contain (C)arbon, (H)ydrogen and (O)xygen; 1
- (ii) hemicellulose shorter / smaller than cellulose / fewer carbons;
hemicellulose from pentose / five-carbon sugars and cellulose from hexose / glucose / six-carbon sugars;
(only credit answers which compare like with like.) 2
- (b) protein / nucleic acid / enzyme / RNA / DNA / starch / amylose / amylopectin polypeptide; 1
- (c) (i) to make sure that all the water has been lost; 1
- (ii) only water given off below 90 °C;
(above 90°C) other substances straw burnt / oxidised / broken down; and lost as gas / produce loss in mass; 2

[7]



- (d) enzymes are specific;
shape of lignin molecules will not fit active site (of enzyme);
OR
shape of active site (of enzyme);
will not fit molecule;

2 max

- (e) 1. made from β -glucose;
2. joined by condensation / removing molecule of water / glycosidic bond;
3. 1 : 4 link specified or described;
4. "flipping over" of alternate molecules;
5. hydrogen bonds linking chains / long straight chains;
6. cellulose makes cell walls strong / cellulose fibres are strong;
7. can resist turgor pressure / osmotic pressure / pulling forces;
8. bond difficult to break;
9. resists digestion / action of microorganisms / enzymes;
(allow maximum of 4 marks for structural features)

6 max

[15]

6 General principles for marking the Essay:

Four skill areas will be marked: scientific content, breadth of knowledge, relevance and quality of language. The following descriptors will form a basis for marking.

Scientific content (maximum 16 marks)

Category	Mark	Descriptor
	16	
Good	14	Most of the material of a high standard reflecting a comprehensive understanding of the principles involved and a knowledge of factual detail fully in keeping with a programme of A-level study. Some material, however, may be a little superficial. Material is accurate and free from fundamental errors but there may be minor errors which detract from the overall accuracy.
	12	
	10	
Average	8	A significant amount of the content is of an appropriate depth, reflecting the depth of treatment expected from a programme of A-level study. Generally accurate with few, if any fundamental errors. Shows a sound understanding of most of the principles involved.
	6	
	4	
Poor	2	Material presented is largely superficial and fails to reflect the depth of treatment expected from a programme of A-level study. If greater depth of knowledge is demonstrated, then there are many fundamental errors.
	0	

Topics

- 3.1.1 Monomers and polymers
- 3.1.2 Carbohydrates
- 3.1.4 Proteins
- 3.1.5 Nucleic acids
- 3.2.3 transport across membranes
- 3.2.4 Cell recognition and the immune system
- 3.3.3 Digestion and absorption
- 3.4.1 DNA, genes and chromosomes

Breadth of Knowledge (maximum 3 marks)

Mark	Descriptor
3	A balanced account making reference to most if not all areas that might realistically be covered on an A-level course of study.
2	A number of aspects covered but a lack of balance. Some topics essential to an understanding at this level not covered.
1	Unbalanced account with all or almost all material based on a single aspect
0	Material entirely irrelevant.

Relevance (maximum 3 marks)

Mark	Descriptor
3	All material presented is clearly relevant to the title. Allowance should be made for judicious use of introductory material
2	Material generally selected in support of title but some of the main content of the essay is of only marginal relevance.
1	Some attempt made to relate material to the title but considerable amounts largely irrelevant.
0	Material entirely irrelevant or too limited in quantity to judge.

Quality of language (maximum 3 marks)

Mark	Descriptor
3	Material is logically presented in clear, scientific English. Technical terminology has been used effectively and accurately throughout.
2	Account is logical and generally presented in clear, scientific English. Technical terminology has been used effectively and is usually accurate.
1	The essay is generally poorly constructed and often fails to use an appropriate scientific style and terminology to express ideas.
0	Material entirely irrelevant or too limited in quantity to judge.



Additional notes on marking this question

Care must be taken in using these notes. It is important to appreciate that the only criteria to be used in awarding marks to a particular essay are those corresponding to the appropriate descriptors. Candidates may gain credit for any information providing that it is biologically accurate, relevant and of a depth in keeping with an A-level course of study. Material used in the essay does not have to be taken from the specification, although it is likely that it will be.

These notes must therefore be seen merely as guidelines providing an indication of areas of the specification from which suitable factual material might be drawn.

In determining the mark awarded for breadth, content should ideally come from each of the areas specified if maximum credit is to be awarded. Where the content is drawn from two areas, two marks should be awarded and where it is taken only from a single area, one mark should be awarded. However, this should only serve as a guide. This list is not exhaustive and examiners should be prepared to offer credit for the incorporation of relevant material from other areas of study.

- 7**
- (a)
 1. Dissolve in alcohol, then add water;
 2. White emulsion shows presence of lipid.2

 - (b) Glycerol. 1

 - (c) Ester. 1

 - (d) **Y** (no mark)
Contains double bond between (adjacent) carbon atoms in hydrocarbon chain. 1

 - (e)
 1. Divide mass of each lipid by total mass of all lipids (in that type of cell);
 2. Multiply answer by 100.2

 - (f) Red blood cells free in blood / not supported by other cells so cholesterol helps to maintain shape;
Allow converse for cell from ileum – cell supported by others in endothelium so cholesterol has less effect on maintaining shape. 1

 - (g)
 1. Cell unable to change shape;
 2. (Because) cell has a cell wall;
 3. (Wall is) rigid / made of peptidoglycan / murein.2 max
- [10]**
- 8**
- (a)
 1. Maltose;
 2. Salivary amylase breaks down starch.2

 - (b) Maltase. 1



- (c) (Mimics / reproduces) effect of stomach. 1
- (d) 1. Add boiled saliva;
2. Everything same as experiment but salivary amylase denatured. 2
- (e) 1. Some starch already digested when chewing / in mouth;
2. Faster digestion of chewed starch;
3. Same amount of digestion without chewing at end.
Accept use of values from graph 3

[9]

9

- (a) 1. Starch formed from α -glucose but cellulose formed from β -glucose;
2. Position of hydrogen and hydroxyl groups on carbon atom 1 inverted. 2
- (b) 1. Insoluble;
2. Don't affect water potential;
OR
3. Helical;
Accept form spirals
4. Compact;
OR
5. Large molecule;
6. Cannot leave cell. 2
- (c) 1. Long and straight chains;
2. Become linked together by many hydrogen bonds to form fibrils;
3. Provide strength (to cell wall). 3

[7]

10

- (a) 1. **A:** phospholipid (layer);
1. Reject hydrophobic / hydrophilic phospholipid
2. **B:** pore / channel / pump / carrier / transmembrane / intrinsic / transport protein;
2. Ignore unqualified reference to protein 2
- (b) (i) Condensation (reaction); 1



- (ii) Organelle named; Function in protein production / secretion;

Function must be for organelle named

Incorrect organelle = 0

eg

1. Golgi (apparatus);
1. Accept smooth endoplasmic reticulum
2. Package / process proteins;

OR

3. Rough endoplasmic reticulum / ribosomes;
3. Accept alternative correct functions of rough endoplasmic reticulum. ER / RER is insufficient
3. Accept folding polypeptide / protein
4. Make polypeptide / protein / forming peptide bonds;

OR

5. Mitochondria;
6. Release of energy / make ATP;
6. Reject produce / make energy
6. Accept produce energy in the form of ATP

OR

7. Vesicles;
8. Secretion / transport of protein;

2

[5]

11

- (a) (i) Glucose and fructose;
Ignore reference to alpha and beta
Either way around

1

- (ii) Glucose and galactose;
Ignore reference to alpha and beta
Either way around

1



- (b) 1. (Amylase) pancreas, produces maltose;
Place and product = 1 mark
(mark horizontally)
2. (Maltase) in / on epithelium (of small intestine), produces glucose;
Ignore references to salivary glands or saliva
Accept wall / lining of small intestine
Ignore reference to cells alone
Ignore reference to ribosomes / rER

2

[4]

12

(a)

Statement	Starch	Cellulose	Glycogen
Found in plant cells	✓	✓	
Contains glycosidic bonds	✓	✓	✓
Contains β -glucose		✓	

One mark for each correct row

3

- (b) Hydrolysis;
Accept: if phonetically correct
Do not accept: 'hydration'

1



- (c) 1. Coiled / helical / spiral;
Feature = one mark
Explanation = one mark
Note: these are independent marking points
These must be related for both marks but can be in reverse order
2. (So) compact / tightly packed / can fit (lots) into a small space;
3. Insoluble;
4. (So) no osmotic effect / does not leave cell / does not affect water potential;
Accept: prevents osmosis
5. Large molecule / long chain;
6. (So) does not leave cell / contains large number of glucose units;
4. and 6. Accept: can't cross membranes
7. Branched chains;
8. (So) easy to remove glucose;

2 max

- (d) Two marks for correct answer of 479 - 521;
Accept: measured and actual lengths in different but correct units for 1 mark

One mark for incorrect answers in which candidate clearly divides measured length by actual length;

The actual range is 23 - 25mm, If they just divide this by 48 they gain 1 mark

Just writing the formula is insufficient, numbers must be used

2

[8]

13

- (a) (i) β / Beta glucose;
Accept b / B
Reject any reference to alpha / α
- (ii) Glycosidic;
Reject references to α (1-4) glycosidic bond, but allow beta 1-4, or unspecified reference to 1-4 (1,4)
- (iii) OH / hydroxyl / HO;
Reject hydroxide
Reject OH / HO molecule
Ignore alcohol

1

1

1



(b) (i)

Starch	Cellulose
1. (1,4 and) 1,6 bonds / contains 1,6 bonds / branching	1. 1,4 bonds / no 1,6 bonds / unbranched / straight;
2. All glucoses / monomers same way up	2. Alternate glucoses / monomers upside down;
3. Helix / coiled / compact	3. Straight;
4. Alpha glucose	4. Beta glucose;
5. No (micro / macro) fibrils / fibres	5. Micro / macro fibrils / fibres;

*1 mark per pair of contrasts, both starch and cellulose required
Accept other comparable differences eg hydrogen bonds **within** starch but **between** cellulose molecules*

2 max

- (ii) 1. H-bonds / micro / macro fibrils / fibres;
Reject strong hydrogen bonds
2. Strength / rigidity / inelasticity;
'Strong hydrogen bonds' = 0 but 'Strong hydrogen bonds give strength (to the molecule)' = 1

2

[7]

14

- (a) (i) Repeating units / nucleotides / monomer / molecules;
Allow more than one, but reject two

1

- (ii) 1. C = hydrogen bonds;
2. D = deoxyribose;
Ignore sugar
3. E = phosphate;
Ignore phosphorus, Ignore molecule

3



(iii)

Name of base	Percentage
Thymine	34
Cytosine / Guanine	16
Adenine	34
Cytosine / Guanine	16

Spelling must be correct to gain MP1

First mark = names correct

Second mark = % correct, with adenine as 34%

2

(b) (i) 153;

1

(ii) Some regions of the gene are non-coding / introns / start / stop code / triplet / there are two DNA strands;

Allow addition mutation

Ignore unqualified reference to mutation

Accept reference to introns and exons if given together

Ignore 'junk' DNA / multiple repeats

1

[8]

15

(a) (i) Hydrolysis;

Accept phonetic spelling.

Ignore reaction.

1

(ii) (Alpha) glucose;

Accept α glucose.

Reject β glucose / beta glucose

1



(b) (i) Add Benedict's (reagent) and heat / warm;

Red / orange / yellow / green (colour);

Reject Add HCl

Accept brown, reject other colours

2

(ii) 2 products / 2 sugars produced;

*Look for idea of **two***

Accept named monosaccharides produced.

"More" insufficient for mark

Neutral if incorrect products named

Neutral "lactose is a polysaccharide"

Neutral "lactose is not a reducing sugar"

Neutral: Reference to surface area.

1

(c) 1. Galactose is a similar shape / structure to lactose / both complementary;

Q Reject: Same shape / structure

2. (Inhibitor / Galactose) fits into / enters / binds with active site (of enzyme);

Accept blocks active site

3. Prevents / less substrate fitting into / binding with (active site) / fewer or no E-S complexes;

Look for principles:

1. Shape

2. Binding to active site

3. Consequence

2 max

[7]

16

(a) (i) Glucose;

Fructose;

Any order.

2

(ii) Lactose has a different shape / structure;

Does not fit / bind to active site of enzyme / sucrase;

Only allow a second mark if reference is made to the active site.

Max 1 mark if active site is described as being on the substrate.

OR

Active site of enzyme / sucrase has a specific shape / structure; Does not fit / bind to lactose;

Do not accept same shape.

2



- (b) (i) Rose and fell;
Peak at 45 (minutes) / concentration of 6.6 (mmol dm⁻³); 2
- (ii) Glucose (produced by digestion) is absorbed / enters blood;
Decrease as used up / stored; 2

[8]

17

- (a) (i) (Lactose +) Water; → (Glucose +) Galactose;
Accept: H₂O for water 2
- (ii) Hydrolysis;
Accept: if phonetically correct 1
- (b) (i) (Add Biuret reagent to both solutions) – no mark;
Neutral: positive / negative result
Lactase / enzyme will give purple / lilac / mauve;
Neutral: incorrect reference to the method

OR

- Lactose / reducing sugar will not give purple / lilac / mauve / will remain blue; 1
- (ii) Lactase / enzyme is a protein;
Accept: lactase / enzyme contains peptide bonds 1

[5]

18

- (a) Helical / spiral / coiled;
Compact / description e.g. 'tightly packed';
Feature = one mark
Explanation = one mark
Insoluble;
Prevents osmosis / uptake of water / does not affect water potential / (starch) does not leave cell;
These must be related for both marks but can be in reverse order.
Large molecule / long chain;
Does not leave cell;
Allow idea of compact / helical / spiral / coiled due to bonding for two marks.

2 max



- (b) (i) β / beta Glucose;
Q Reject alpha glucose 1
- (ii) Glycosidic; 1
- (c) Long / straight / unbranched chains (of glucose joined by) hydrogen bonds;
Q Ignore reference to alpha glucose
- Form (micro)fibrils / (macro)fibrils;
- Provide rigidity / strength / support;
Allow suitable descriptions for last point e.g. 'prevents bursting'; 3
- [7]

- 19** (a) (i) condensation; 1
- (b) (i) **D**; 1
- (ii) **C**; 1
- (iii) **A**; 1
- (c) absence of a double bond;
in the (hydrocarbon) chain;
unable to accept more hydrogen / saturated with hydrogen; 2 max
- [6]

- 20** (a) Double bond(s);
- (Bonds) between carbon;
C=C bond(s) = 2 marks
'No' C=C bond(s) disqualifies 1 mark only
Accept: does not contain maximum number of H for 1 mark
Neutral: contains C=O bonds 2
- (b) Graph shows negative correlation / description given;
- Correlation does not mean causation / prevention / shows lower risk not prevention;
- May be due to another factor / example given;
Neutral: refs. to methodology e.g. sample size / line of best fit
Q: Do not allow 'casual' relationship 3



- (c) (i) Glycosidic;
Accept: if phonetically correct
Reject: ester bond 1
- (ii) Contains glycerol / three fatty acids / forms three ester bonds;
Neutral: contains less fatty acids
Answers must refer to a triglyceride
Ignore refs. to incorrect bond names
Neutral: olestra has eight fatty acids / R groups
Reject: contains three glycerols 1
- (iii) 9; 1

[8]