



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# Plant disease

Level: GCSE AQA 8461

Subject: Biology

Exam Board: Suitable for all boards

Topic: Plant disease

Level: Easy

This is to be used by all students preparing for AQA Biology 8461 foundation or higher tier but it is also suitable for students of other boards



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**Q1.** People often grow pondweed in fishponds to *oxygenate* the water.

(a) Name the process that the pondweed uses to produce oxygen.

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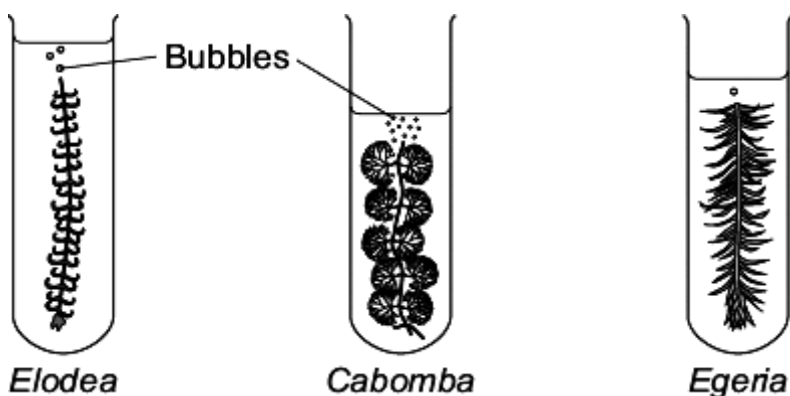
(1)

(b) A student investigated oxygen production in three different pondweeds, *Elodea*, *Cabomba* and *Egeria*.

The student:

- cut a piece of pondweed from an *Elodea* plant
- put the pondweed into a tube of water
- counted the bubbles given off in one minute
- did the experiment again using a piece of pondweed from a *Cabomba* plant
- did the experiment a third time using a piece of pondweed from an *Egeria* plant.

The diagram shows the student's investigation.



The table shows the results.

Pondweed	Number of bubbles produced in 1 minute
<i>Elodea</i>	17
<i>Cabomba</i>	28
<i>Egeria</i>	8

(i) The student said:



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“I suggest that people grow *Cabomba* in garden ponds to oxygenate the water fastest.”

Give **three** variables the student should have controlled to make sure his conclusion was valid.

Use information from the student’s method and the diagram.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

3 .....

.....

(3)

(ii) The three pondweeds all cost about the same.

Suggest **one** other factor that people with fishponds might think about before deciding which type of pondweed to use.

.....

(1)

(c) A person grows *Cabomba* in his pond.

The *Cabomba* plants develop yellow leaves.

Which mineral ion would stop the leaves turning yellow?

.....

(1)

(Total 6 marks)

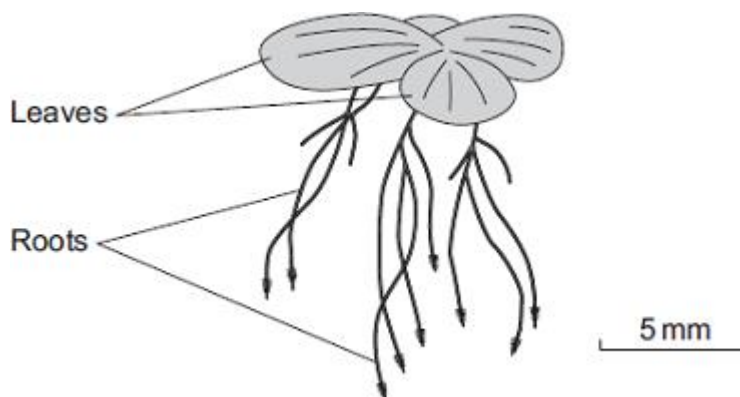


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**Q2.** Duckweed is a plant. Duckweed grows in ponds. The leaves of duckweed float on the surface of the water and its roots hang down in the water.

The drawing shows a duckweed plant.



- (a) Duckweed roots absorb nitrate ions from the water. The nitrate ions help the duckweed to grow.

Draw a ring around the correct answer to complete the sentence.

Duckweed needs nitrate ions to make

carbohydrate
fat.
protein.

(1)

- (b) Some students grew duckweed plants in three different solutions of mineral ions, **A**, **B** and **C**, and in distilled water (**D**).

**Table 1** shows the concentrations of mineral ions in each of **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** at the start of the investigation.

**Table 1**

Mineral ion	Concentration of mineral ions in mg per dm <sup>3</sup> at the start of the investigation			
	A	B	C	D
Nitrate	1000	4	4	0
Phosphate	300	0	0	0



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Magnesium	200	84	24	0
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The students counted the number of duckweed leaves in **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** at the start of the investigation and after 28 days.

**Table 2** shows their results.

**Table 2**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Number of leaves at start</b>	4	4	4	4
<b>Number of leaves after 28 days</b>	50	27	14	6

- (i) Using **Table 1** and **Table 2**, describe the effect of magnesium ions on the growth of duckweed.

.....  
.....

(1)

- (ii) Solution **A** contained the highest concentration of nitrate ions.

One student said, 'The results show that nitrate ions are needed for the growth of duckweed.'

What evidence in **Table 2** supports what the student said?

.....  
.....

(1)

- (c) The students measured the growth of the duckweed by counting the number of leaves.

- (i) Suggest a better method of measuring the growth of the duckweed.

.....  
.....

(1)



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- (ii) Suggest why your method is better than the students' method.

.....  
.....

(1)  
**(Total 5 marks)**



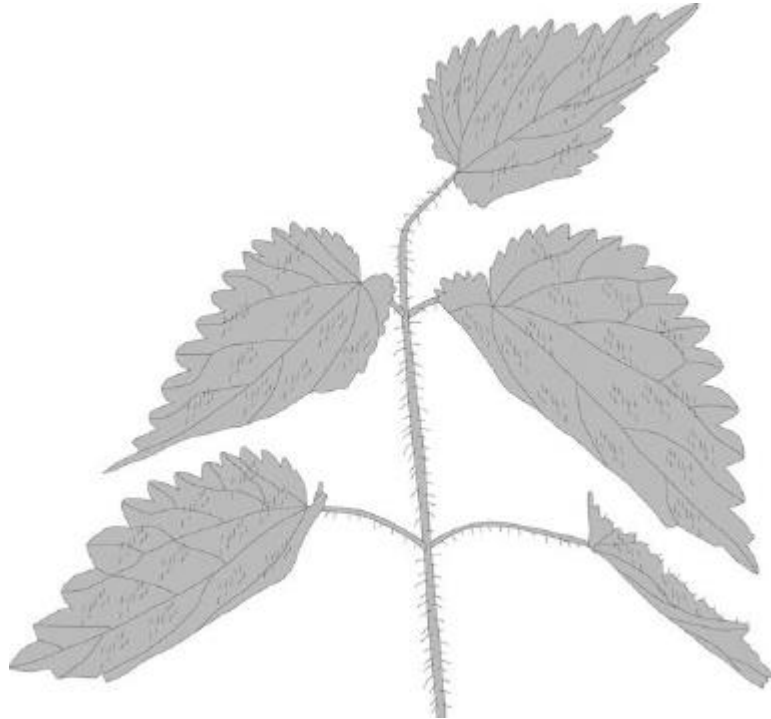
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**Q3.**Plants have adaptations to help defend themselves and to help them survive.

**Figure 1** shows a nettle plant.

**Figure 1**



(a) Explain how the nettle is adapted for defence and protection.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**(3)**

(b) Witch hazel is another plant adapted for defence.

Witch hazel produces oil with antiseptic properties. The oil prevents bacteria from attacking the plant.



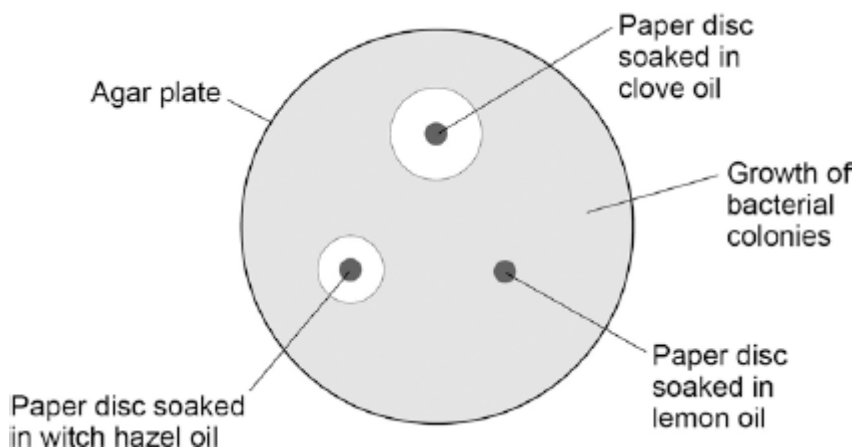
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A student investigated how effective three different plant oils were at preventing the growth of bacteria.

Figure 2 shows the results.

Figure 2



Which plant oil is the most effective at preventing the growth of bacteria?

Give a reason for your answer.

Oil .....

Reason .....

.....

(2)

(c) The student tested tea tree oil using the same method.

The results showed tea tree oil was the most effective at preventing bacterial growth.

The student concluded that tea tree oil could be used to treat bacterial infections instead of antibiotics.

Give **one** reason why this is **not** a valid conclusion.

.....

.....

(1)

(Total 6 marks)





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**Q4.** Plants need mineral ions for healthy growth.

(a) Which part of a plant takes in mineral ions?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Flower

Leaf

Root

(1)

(b) Leaves are usually green.

(i) What is the green substance in leaves?

Draw a ring around your answer.

**chlorophyll**

**glucose**

**starch**

(1)

(ii) The green substance in leaves is important to plants.

Explain why.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2)

(c) A shortage of mineral ions can affect a plant.

Draw **one** line from each mineral ion to the effect of its shortage.



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Mineral ion	Effect of its shortage
Magnesium	Yellow leaves
Nitrate	Stunted growth
	White flowers

(2)  
(Total 6 marks)