



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

# Plant disease

Level: GCSE AQA 8461

Subject: Biology

Exam Board: Suitable for all boards

Topic: Plant disease

Level: Medium

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.** Nitrate fertilisers are important in agriculture. They help to increase crop yields and so make food cheaper to buy. Some of the nitrate fertilisers run off into rivers and get into drinking water. The problem is that the nitrates can react with iron in our blood. This reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen. If the amount of nitrate in drinking water is too high, it can cause 'blue baby syndrome', in which babies look blue due to lack of oxygen.

The table shows the amount of nitrate fertilisers used and the crop yield.

Nitrate fertilisers in kilograms per hectare of land	0	150	250
Crop yield in tonnes per hectare of land	5	8	7

Use the information above to suggest what should be done, by farmers and government, to prevent 'blue baby syndrome'. Explain the reasons for your suggestions.

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**(Total 3 marks)**

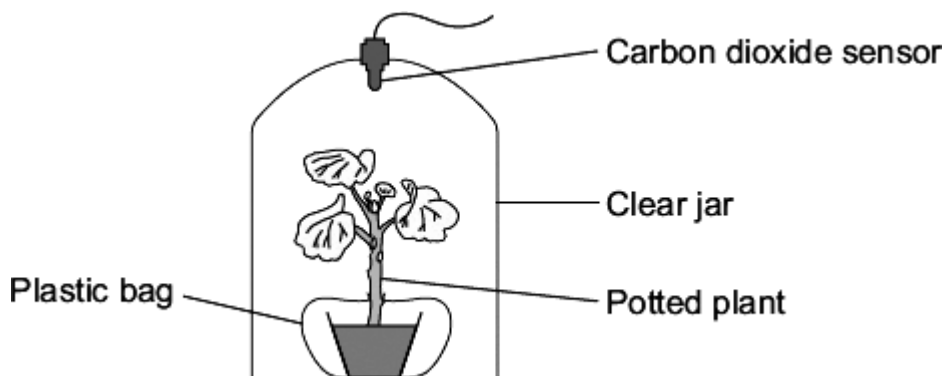


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**Q2.** A student measured the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air around a potted plant on two different days.

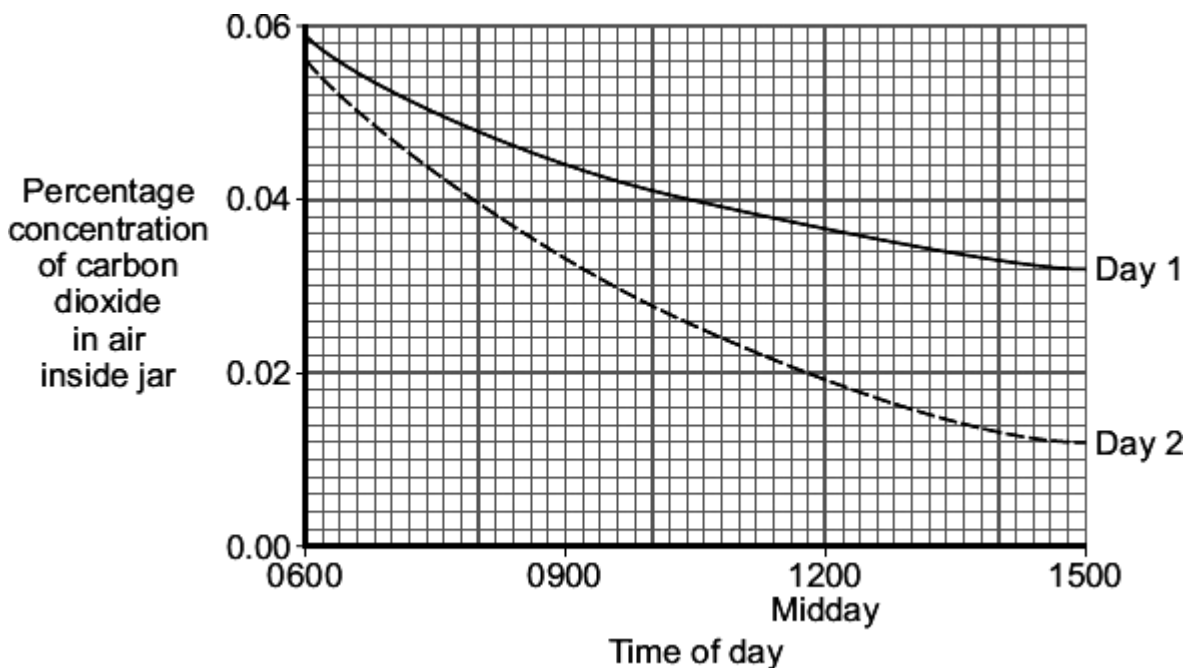
The diagram shows the student's apparatus.



There was a plastic bag round the plant pot to stop microorganisms in the soil affecting the concentration of gases in the air inside the jar.

The apparatus was put near a window.

The graph shows the results.



(a) **Day 1** was cloudier than **Day 2**.

What evidence from the graph shows that **Day 1** was cloudier?

Explain your answer.

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(2)

(b) A potted plant sometimes develops yellow leaves.

The development of yellow leaves could be due to the lack of a mineral ion.

Suggest the mineral ion that could be lacking.

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(1)

**(Total 3 marks)**



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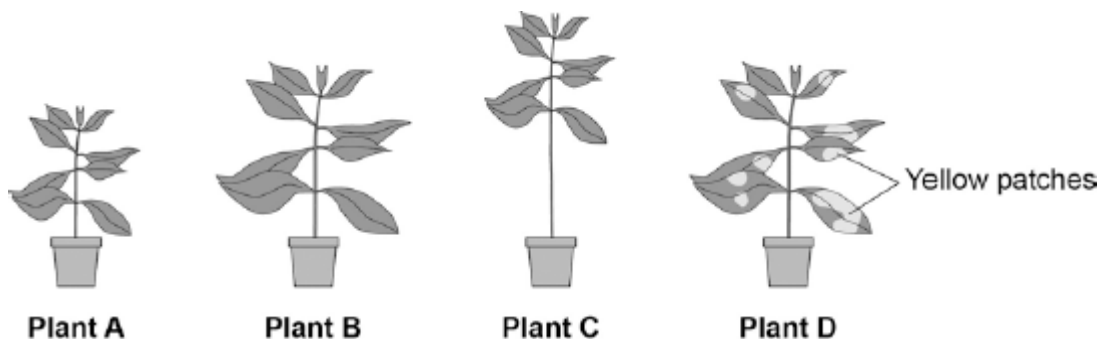
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**Q3.** To be healthy, plants need the right amount of mineral ions from the soil.

The diagram below shows four plants.

The plants were grown in four different growing conditions:

- sunny area, with nitrate and magnesium added to the soil
- sunny area, with magnesium but **no** nitrate added to the soil
- sunny area, with nitrate but **no** magnesium added to the soil
- dark area, with nitrate and magnesium added to the soil.



(a) Which plant was grown with no **nitrate**?

Tick **one** box.

A       B       C

(1)

(b) Which plant was grown with no **magnesium**?

Tick **one** box.

A       B       C

(1)

(c) Give **one** variable that was kept constant in this experiment.



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(1)

- (d) Plants need other minerals for healthy growth such as potassium ions and phosphate ions.

A farmer wanted to compare the percentage of minerals in two types of manure.

- Cow manure from her own farm.
- Chicken manure pellets she could buy.

The table below shows data for each type of manure.

	Phosphate ions in %	Potassium ions in %
Cow manure	0.4	0.5
Chicken manure pellets	2.5	2.3

Suggest **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using the chicken manure pellets compared to the cow manure.

Advantage .....

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Disadvantage .....

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(2)  
(Total 5 marks)

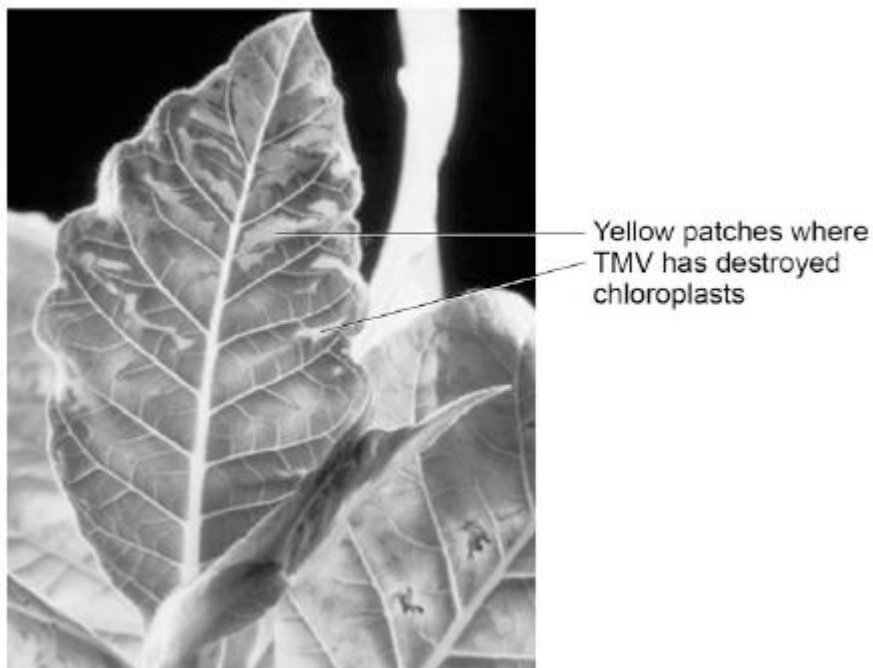


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**Q4.** Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) is a disease affecting plants.

The diagram below shows a leaf infected with TMV.



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- (a) All tools should be washed in disinfectant after using them on plants infected with TMV.

Suggest why.

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(1)

- (b) Scientists produced a single plant that contained a TMV-resistant gene.

Suggest how scientists can use this plant to produce **many** plants with the TMV-resistant gene.

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(1)

- (c) Some plants produce fruits which contain glucose.



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Describe how you would test for the presence of glucose in fruit.

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**(2)**

(d) TMV can cause plants to produce less chlorophyll.

This causes leaf discoloration.

Explain why plants with TMV have stunted growth.

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**(4)**

**(Total 8 marks)**

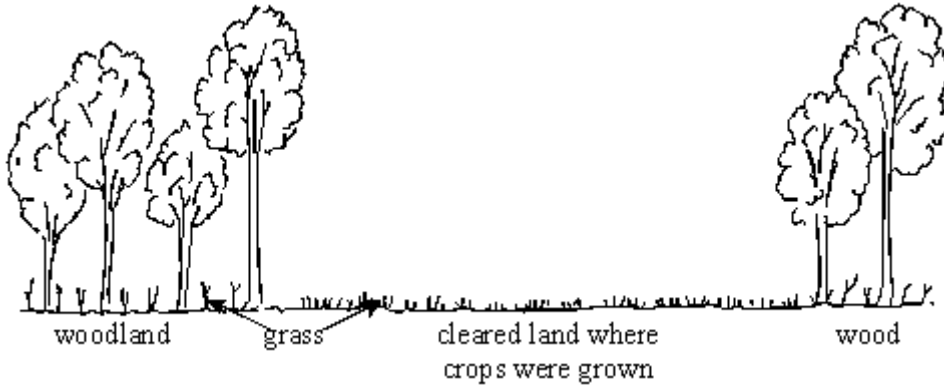




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- Q5.** In some developing countries woodland is cut down and burned. The ash acts as fertiliser. Crops are grown for three years. The land is then left as it is too poor to grow any more crops.



- (a) In the original woodland trees and plants died and grew for hundreds of years. When cleared the land grew crops for only three years. Explain this difference in as much detail as you can.

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(3)

- (b) What could farmers do to make crops grow on the cleared land for more than three years?

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(2)

(Total 5 marks)