



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

Trophic level in an ecosystem

Level: GSCE AQA 8461

Subject: Biology

Exam Board: Suitable for all boards

Topic: Trophic level in an ecosystem

Level: Hard

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. The table shows energy transfers in a large insect and a small mammal.

Both animals feed mainly on grass.

Energy transfer	Amount of energy in kJ.	
	Large insect	Small mammal
Eaten as grass	4.00	25.00
Absorbed into body	1.60	12.50
Leaves body as faeces	2.40	12.50
Production of new tissue	0.64	0.25
Transferred by respiration	0.96	12.25

(a) What percentage of the energy in food is transferred into new tissue in the large insect?

Show clearly how you work out your answer.

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.....
.....

Answer =

(2)



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- (b) The proportion of energy in the food transferred into new tissue is much greater in the large insect than in the small mammal.

Explain why as fully as you can.

You should include references to the data in your answer.

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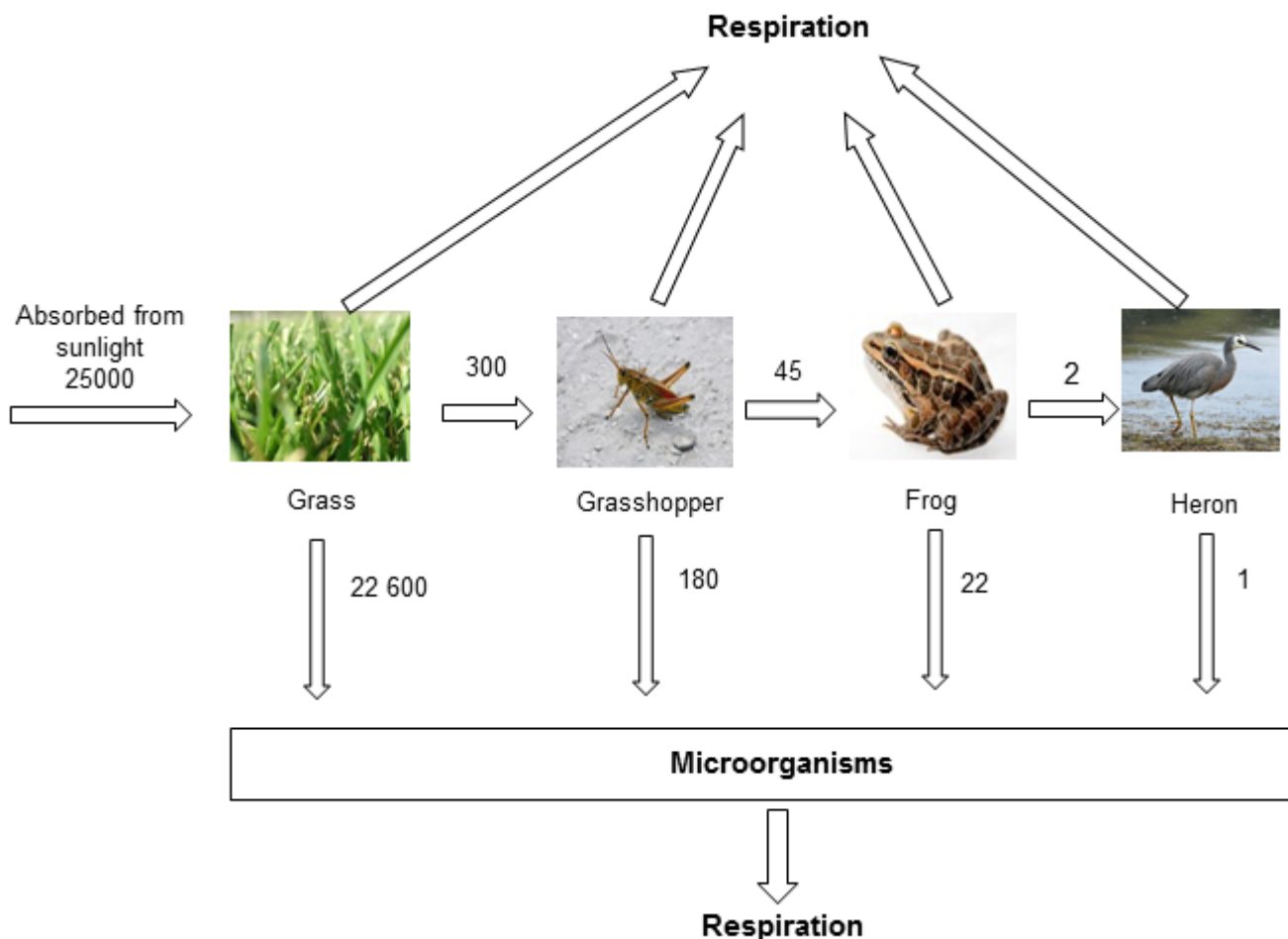
(3)
(Total 5 marks)



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Q2. The diagram shows the annual energy flow through 1 m² of a habitat.
The unit, in each case, is kJ per m² per year.



(a) Calculate the percentage of the energy absorbed by the grass from sunlight that is transferred to the frog.

Show clearly how you work out your answer.

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Answer %

(2)

(b) All of the energy the grass absorbs from the sun is eventually lost to the surroundings.

In what form is this energy lost?

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(1)



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- (c) Food chains are usually **not** more than five organisms long.

Explain why.

To gain full marks you must use data from the diagram.

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(2)

- (d) In this habitat microorganisms help to recycle materials.

Explain how.

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(3)

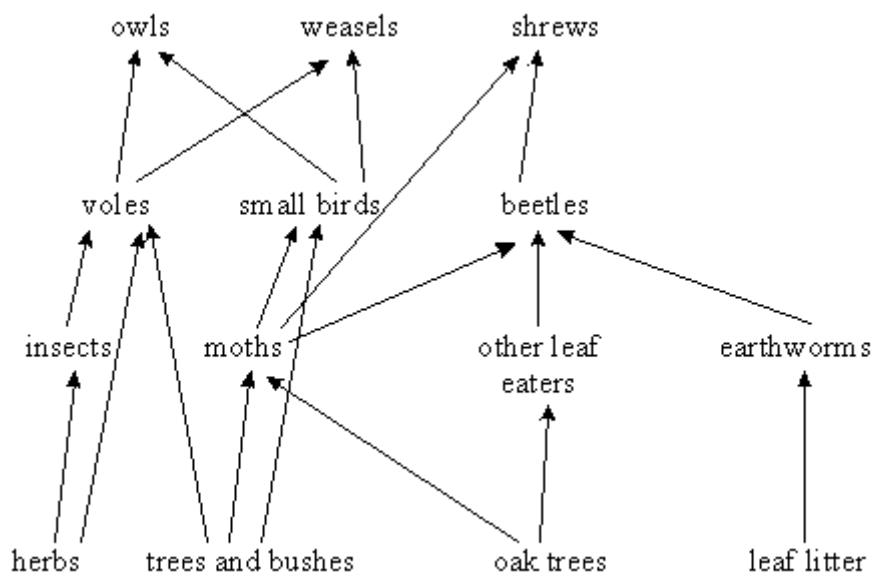
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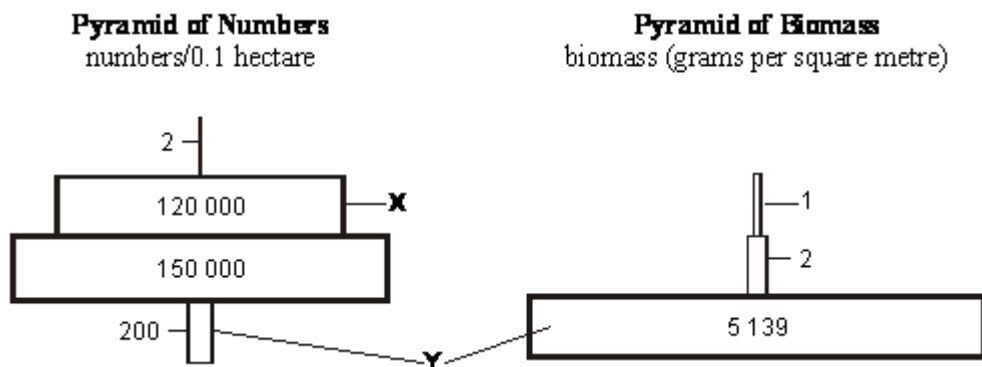
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Q3. The diagram below shows a food web for a wood.



(a) The diagrams below show a pyramid of the numbers and a pyramid of the biomass for 0.1 hectare of this wood.



(i) Name **one** organism from the level labelled X.

.....

(1)

(ii) Explain, as fully as you can, why the level labelled Y is such a different width in the two pyramids.



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(3)

- (b) Explain, as fully as you can, what eventually happens to energy from the sun which is captured by the plants in the wood.

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(10)

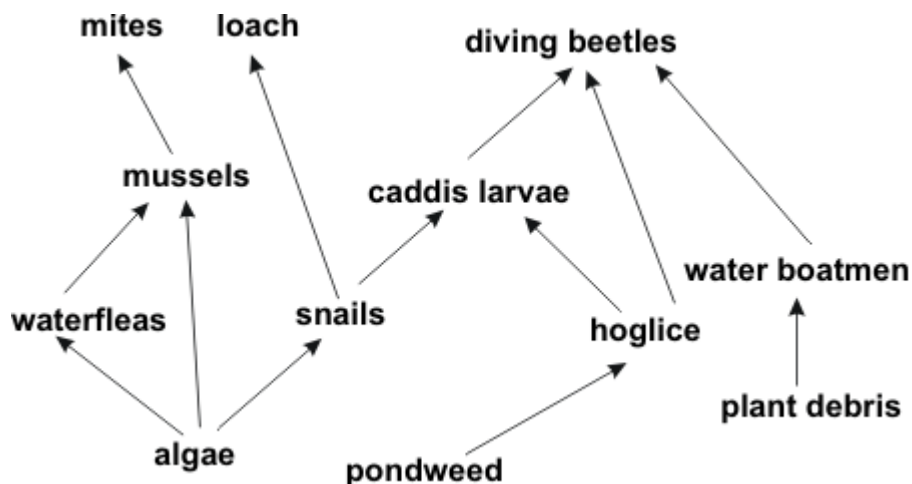
(Total 14 marks)



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Q4. The diagram below shows a food web for some of the organisms which live in a pond.



(a) (i) Name **one** secondary consumer in this food web.

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(1)

(ii) The algae are small green plants.

Give **three** conditions needed by green plants to produce sugars.

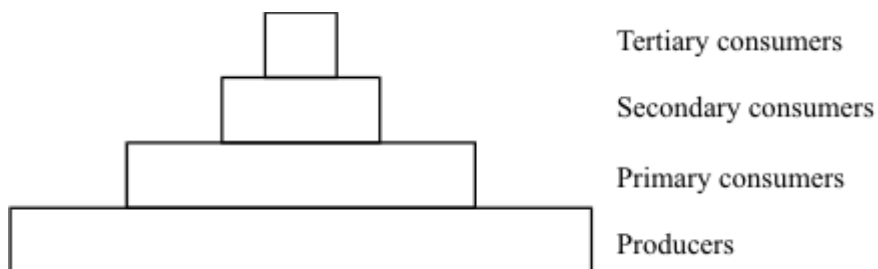
1

2

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(3)

(b) This is a pyramid of biomass for the organisms in the aquarium.





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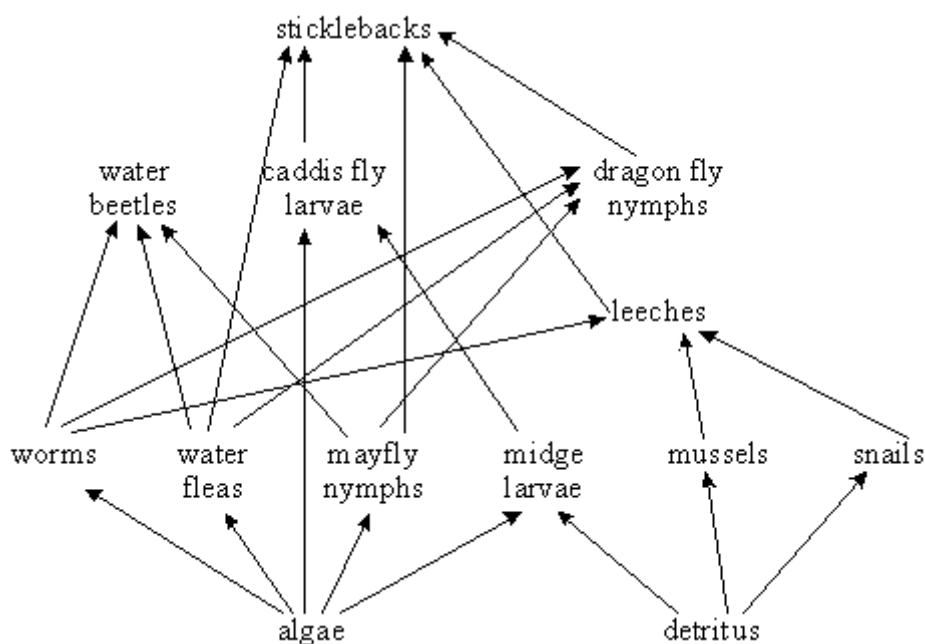
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Some of the biomass of the producers is **not** transferred to the tertiary consumers.

Explain, as fully as you can, what happens to this biomass.

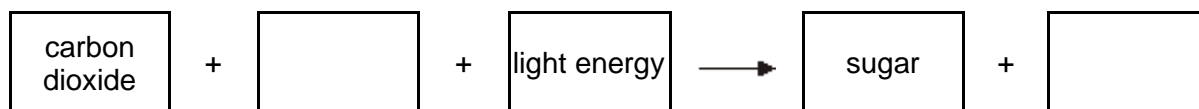
(6)
(Total 10 marks)

Q5. The diagram below shows a food web for some of the organisms which live in a pond.



You may need to use information from the food web to help you to answer the following questions.

(a) The algae photosynthesise. Complete the equation for photosynthesis.



(2)



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- (b) Only a small percentage of the Sun's energy captured by the algae is eventually incorporated into the body tissues of the stickleback. Explain, as fully as you can, what happens to the rest of the energy captured by the algae.

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(8)
(Total 10 marks)

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The diagram shows the flow of energy through a forest. The figures are in kilojoules of energy per square metre per year.



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- (a) What percentage of the energy in the trees is passed on as food for the carnivores? Show clearly how you work out your final answer.

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..... per cent

(2)

- (b) Give **three** reasons why so little of the energy in the trees is passed on to the carnivores.

1

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(3)

(Total 5 marks)

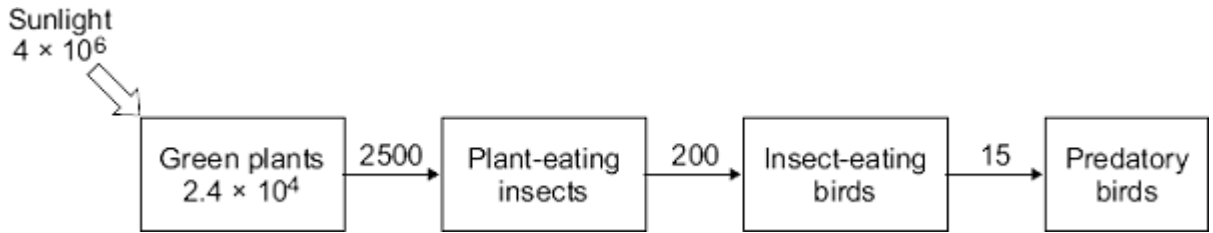
Q6. The diagram shows the annual flow of energy through a habitat.

The figures are in kJ m^{-2} .



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- (a) (i) Calculate the percentage of the energy in sunlight that was transferred into energy in the green plants.

Show clearly how you work out your answer.

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Answer = %

(2)

- (ii) Suggest reasons why the percentage energy transfer you calculated in part (a)(i) was so low.

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(2)



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- (b) Compare the amount of energy transferred to the insect-eating birds with the amount transferred to the predatory birds.

Suggest explanations for the difference in the amount of energy transferred to the two types of bird.

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(3)
(Total 7 marks)