Questions

Q1.

Blood clotting is a process that is affected by genes.

Some people are at an increased risk of a condition called deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Blood clots form in the veins of people with DVT.

There are two alleles in a population, a wild type allele and G20210A.

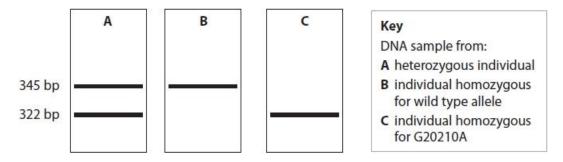
Individuals with a family history of DVT may be offered a genetic test for the G20210A allele.

In this test, a sequence of 345 base pairs (bp) from this gene is amplified using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

A specific restriction enzyme is then added to the amplified DNA.

The DNA fragments produced are then separated using gel electrophoresis.

The diagram shows the results of gel electrophoresis for three individuals, A, B and C.



(i) Explain the role of DNA primers in the production of the amplified 345bp sequence.	
	(2)

Edexcel Biology A-level - Forensics

(ii) Explain why the amplified DNA fragments for the G20210A allele and the wild t are different.	ype allele
	(3)
(iii) Devise an investigation to determine the optimum number of cycles for the	
polymerase chain reaction used to amplify the DNA for this test.	(4)
	(4)

(Total for question = 9 marks)

Q2.

The coffee husks, shown in the photograph, are a waste product of coffee plantations.

Composting has been suggested as an environmentally friendly way of decomposing these coffee husks.



The effect of adding cow dung to coffee husks, before they are composted, has been investigated.

The table shows the percentages of organic carbon and nitrogen in two compost heaps at the start of composting and after 90 days.

	Husks	alone	Husks with added cow dung								
Days composting	0	90	0	90							
Organic carbon (%)	54.50	41.70	48.10	35.40							
Nitrogen (%)	1.84	2.31	2.76	3.19							

Comment on the effect of adding cow dung to composting coffee husks.

(3)
•

(Total for question = 3 marks)

(Total for question = 6 marks)

Q3.

	ody farms use the bodies of pigs to study the changes in insect species on a body after eath.	
(i)	Describe how this study could be carried out.	(3)
••		
••		1
••		ı
		į
	Explain how the results of this study could be used to help to establish the time of dea a human.	th
		(3)
		į
		į
••		1
••		ı
••		
		ı
		1

Q4.

Describe how DNA profiling could be carried out to show that these snakes are different species.	
	(4)

(Total for question = 4 marks)

Edexcel Biology A-level - Forensics

Q5.

Describe the changes that occur inside a body in the first week after death.	
	[3]

(Total for question = 3 marks)

Edexcel Biology A-level - Forensics

7	

One method of estimating the time of death is to determine the age of blowfly maggots on a dead body.
Microorganisms are also found on a dead body.

·

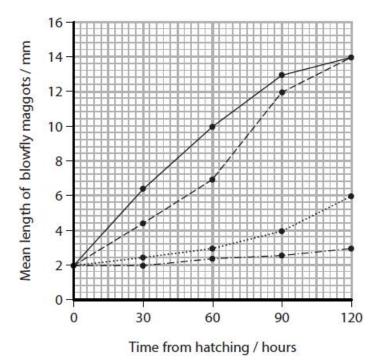
Describe the role of decomposers, such as microorganisms, in the carbon cycle.	
	(2

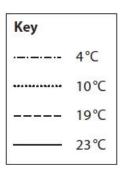
(Total for question = 2 marks)

Q7.

One method of estimating the time of death is to determine the age of blowfly maggots on a dead body.

The effect of environmental temperature on the growth of blowfly maggots is shown in the graph.





(i) Blowfly maggots found on a dead body had lengths between 3 and 8 mm. The body had been at a constant environmental temperature of 19 °C since death.

Determine the maximum time since these maggots hatched.

(1)

																			ho		rc
 	 	 	•	 	 								 				 		110	u	

(ii) Determine the fastest rate of growth of a blowfly maggot at a temperature of 19 °C. Give your answer to 2 significant figures.

(2)

..... mm hour⁻¹

Edexcel Biology A-level - Forensics

(iii) Explain the effect of temperature on the rate of growth of blowfly maggots.
(3

(Total for question = 6 marks)

Q8.

Skulls can be used as evidence for human evolution.

The only type of human present today is the modern human. In the past, another type of human, called Neanderthal, occupied the same geographical area.

The photograph shows the skulls of both types of human.



Modern human skull

Neanderthal skull

© hairymuseummatt/DrMikeBaxter

Genetic studies now show that these two types of human have interbred.

Only small quantities of DNA can be extracted from the remains of Neanderthal humans.

The quantity of extracted DNA is amplified using

- A DNA profiling
- **B** polymerase chain reaction
- ☑ C RNA profiling
- D translation chain reaction

(Total for question = 1 mark)

(1)

types of human.

Q9.

Skulls can be used as evidence for human evolution.

The only type of human present today is the modern human. In the past, another type of human, called Neanderthal, occupied the same geographical area.

The photograph shows the skulls of both types of human.



Devise a procedure, using electrophoresis, to compare the amplified DNA from these two

Modern human skull

Neanderthal skull

© hairymuseummatt/DrMikeBaxter

Genetic studies now show that these two types of human have interbred.

(4)

(Total for question = 4 marks)

(5)

Q10.

A deer was found dead on National Trust land. Some people thought that the wounds that led to the deer's death could have been caused by a big cat such as a black panther.



The DNA produced by PCR was analysed to find out if a black panther was involved.

Explain how gel electrophoresis could be used to find out if this DNA came from a black panther.

•••
•••

(Total for question = 5 marks)

Q11.

The extent of decomposition is important in helping to determine the time of death of a mammal.

Body farms are outdoor laboratories where experiments take place to investigate the changes that take place after death in a range of conditions. Body farms use the bodies of pigs or donated human bodies.

The effects of factors such as temperature, moisture and position of the body on the rate of decomposition can be studied.

Explain the effect of ambient temperature on the rate of decomposition.

(3)
 . ,

(Total for question = 3 marks)

(Total for question = 4 marks)

Q12.

Answer the question with a cross in the box you think is correct ⊠. If you change	è
your mind about an answer, put a line through the box 🗟 and then mark your ne	W
answer with a cross ⊠.	

Farmers use fertilisers to increase the growth of crops such as wheat.

(i)		ers contain phosphate ion compounds. need phosphate in order to synthesise	
	A B C D	both cellulose and phospholipids both phospholipids and polysaccharides both polynucleotides and phospholipids both polynucleotides and polysaccharides	(1)
(ii) so		ne grain is harvested, farmers plough the stems (straw) from wheat plants	into the
		proves the quality of the soil. These stems contain polysaccharides. how microorganisms in the soil break down the stems.	(3)
••			
			•••••

Q13.

A deer was found dead on National Trust land. Some people thought that the wounds that led to the deer's death could have been caused by a big cat such as a black panther.



Samples of DNA from the wounds of this deer were collected.

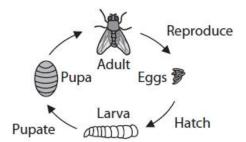
Investigators used the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to increase the quantity of DNA in the samples.

(ii) One PCR cycle takes two minutes.
Show that the quantity of DNA would have been amplified over one million times after 40 minutes.
(2)
(Total for question – 5 marks)

Q14.

Blowflies are found in many parts of the world, including Africa.

The diagram shows the life cycle of one species of blowfly (species A) found in Africa.



An investigation was carried out to find the temperature at which 50% of the larvae of this species survive. This investigation was repeated for a further six species of African blowfly larvae, B to G. All other variables were kept constant.

In another investigation, the temperature of sand that the larvae selected when ready to pupate was recorded.

A student used the data from these investigations to find out if there is a statistically significant correlation between the two sets of temperatures.

To do so, a Spearman's rank correlation coefficient can be calculated.

(i) Complete the table to rank all the data and to calculate d and d² for species E to G.

Mean Rank for Rank for temperature Mean Difference mean mean Difference in rank Blowfly at which temperature temperature temperature species 50% of for 50% of sand in rank (d) squared of sand larvae larvae selected / °C (d^2) selected survive / °C survival 5 7 49.0 26.1 -24 A В 47.5 2 23.2 3 -1 1 C 48.5 3 24.7 6 -39 1 1 0 0 D 42.9 16.6 E 48.8 23.6 F 50.1 24.2 G 49.2 23.1

(3)

(3)

	(ii)	Calculate the Spearman'	s rank correlation	coefficient (rs)	using the equation
--	------	-------------------------	--------------------	------------------	--------------------

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6\sum d^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

where $\Sigma d^2 = 34$ and n is the number of blowfly species.

Answer

(iii) The table shows critical values for rs.

		Probability	
n	0.10	0.05	0.01
5	0.900	1.000	1.000
6	0.829	0.886	1.000
7	0.714	0.786	0.929
8	0.643	0.738	0.881
9	0.600	0.683	0.833

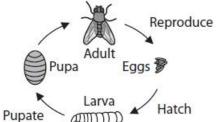
	ne data sho	·	-		 (2)

(Total for question = 8 marks)

Q15.

Blowflies are found in many parts of the world, including Africa.

The diagram shows the life cycle of one species of blowfly (species A) found in Africa.



An investigation was carried out to find the temperature at which 50% of the larvae of this species survive. This investigation was repeated for a further six species of African blowfly larvae, B to G. All other variables were kept constant.

In another investigation, the temperature of sand that the larvae selected when ready to pupate was recorded.

A number of observations were made about a dead rhinoceros:

- adults of all seven species of blowfly (A to G) were observed near the rhinoceros
- large numbers of living larvae of species F were present inside the rhinoceros
- mean temperature in this group of larvae was 49 ± 1.1 °C
- mean temperature of the air surrounding the rhinoceros was 33 ± 3.0 °C.

(i) Determine how the mean temperature of 49 °C was found.	
	(2)
	••
	••
(ii) It was observed that all the living larvae in the rhinoceros belonged to species F.	
The metabolic activity of the larvae of species F increases the temperature within the dead rhinoceros. Explain the advantages for this species of blowfly of increasing the temperature within the dead rhinoceros.	1
the dead milloceros.	(3)
(Total for question = 5 ma	 rke\
(10tal 10t question = 5 illa	1 V 2)

Mark Scheme

Q1.

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(i)	An explanation that makes reference to two of the following:		
	primers have a specific base sequence (1)	IGNORE contain complementary bases	
	bind to complementary bases (at either end) of the DNA be amplified (1)	ALLOW primers attach to the start of the STR sequence	
	,,,,	ALLOW anneal for bind	
	therefore, provide a site for the DNA polymerase to bind (1)	ALLOW allowing DNA polymerase to create a complementary strand	(2)
Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to three of the following:		
	the base sequences of the alleles are different (1)	ALLOW they have different numbers of base pairs e.g. wild type 345bp and the G20210A has 322bp	
	 the restriction enzyme {recognises / cuts} at a specific {site / DNA base sequence} (1) 		
	that is only present in the G20210A allele (1)		
	therefore, a shorter fragment is produced for the G20210A allele (1)		(3)

Question number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(iii)	An answer that makes reference to four of the following:		
	 identify an appropriate reagent to be provided (in excess) (1) 	e.g. DNA, polymerase, primers, mononucleotides	
	identify appropriate conditions (to control) (1)	e.g. temperatures used are 95, 55 and 70°C / duration of steps in cycle	
	change the number of cycles (1)		
	use gel electrophoresis (to determine quantity of DNA produced) (1)	ALLOW a description of gel electrophoresis	
	choose the smallest number of cycles that produces an observable band (1)	ALLOW choose the number of cycles giving the {thickest / clearest} band	(4)

Q2.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	An answer that makes reference to the following:		
	at the start of composting the percentage of organic carbon is less and the percentage of nitrogen is more when cow dung is added (1)		
	adding cow dung does not change the decrease in organic carbon (1)	e.g. 12.8% and 12.7%	
	adding cow dung causes {a slight / no change} to the increase in nitrogen (1)	e.g. 0.43% compared with 0.47%	
	adding cow dung has no significant effect on composting (of coffee husks) (1)		3

Q3.

Question Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(i)	A description that makes reference to three of the following: • standardisation of pigs studied (1)	e.g. same {size / breed / mass / type / age /sex}	
	named {environmental condition / abiotic factor} controlled (1)	ALLOW example of an abiotic factor being monitored such as temperature	
	record the presence of different species (of insects) (1)	e.g. every 24 hours, every day, hourly, weekly	
	at regular intervals of time (1)	TAMPS BETWEEN	(3)

Question Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to three of the following:		
	record which {insects / species} are present (on the human) (1)		
	compare with results from investigation (on pigs) to determine time of death (1)		
	take into account which stages of the lifecycle are present (1)		
	(when using stage of succession to determine time of death) environmental variables need to be taken into account (1)		(3)

Q4.

Question Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
	A description that makes reference to four of the following:		
	DNA obtained from the two types of grass snake (1)		
	{ PCR / restriction enzymes } used to produce fragments of DNA (1)	ALLOW produce different length sections of DNA or target regions of DNA	
	gel electrophoresis used to analyse the DNA samples (1)	ALLOW description of gel electrophoresis e.g. use of agarose gel and electric current	
	(gel electrophoresis) used to separate the fragments of DNA (1)	ALLOW similar patterns in the bands would indicate they are the same species	
	 more differences in the pattern of bands produced would indicate that the snakes are different species (1) 		(4)

Q5.

Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
	A description that makes reference to three of the following: (body) temperature falls (1) rigor mortis / stiffening of the muscles (1)	ALLOW algor mortis	
	 autolysis / break down of cells by enzymes in the body (1) putrefaction / discolouration / bloating (1) 	ALLOW breakdown of tissues by enzymes ALLOW accumulation of gases	(3)

Q6.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	A description that makes reference to two of the following:		
	 decomposers break down organic material (from the dead body) 	ALLOW organic molecules / named organic molecule / organic compounds	
	(decomposers) respire	ALLOW respiration takes place	(2)
	 releasing carbon dioxide (into the atmosphere) 	ALLOW methane in context of anaerobic respiration	(-)

Q7.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	• 66	ALLOW 67	(1)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	correct values taken from the graph	Example of calculation $(12 - 6.8) \div (90-60) = 000$ or 5.2 ÷ 30 = ALLOW 5.0, 5.1 or 5.2	
	correct rate calculated from figures used from graph	0.17 (mm hour ⁻¹) (0.1667 or 0.167 – one mark only) Correct answer without working gains full marks	(2)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(iii)	An explanation that makes reference to the following:		
	temperature affects {enzymes / metabolism / reactions}	ALLOW protein synthesis / cell division	
	an increase in temperature increases kinetic energy	ALLOW converse statement for temperature decrease	
	producing more (frequent) collisions between enzyme and substrate (molecules) (1)	ALLOW more (frequent) formation enzyme-substrate complexes	(3)

Q8.

Question Number	Answer	Mark
	The only correct answer is B polymerase chain reaction	
	A is not correct because it is not profiling	
	c is not correct because it is not RNA	
	D is not correct because it is not translation	
		(1)

Q9.

Question Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
	An explanation that makes reference to four of the following		
	 restriction { enzymes / endonucleases } used to cut DNA (frommodern humans and Neanderthals) into fragments (1) 		
	 DNA samples are loaded onto (agarose) gel (1) 		
	 {electric current is passed through / potential difference isapplied across} the gel (1) 	ALLOW use of fluorescent dyes	(4)
	markers are added to visualise the bands (1)		1.2
	 the position of the bands produced can be compared (1) 		

Q10.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
	An explanation that makes reference to five of the following:		
	 detail of loading of electrophoresis tank (1) 	e.g. use of agarose gel, use of a buffer, sample placed in wells	
	 { current / potential difference } applied across the gel (1) 	ALLOW voltage	
	 use { gene probe / DNA stain} (1) 	e.g. fluorescent dye, methylene blue, iodine or ethidium bromide ALLOW reference to Southern blot technique	
	 use of { STRs / DNA } of black panther (1) 		
	 compare { bands / DNA profiles } (1) 	ALLOW compare lines	(5)
	 a match would indicate that (DNA from) a black panther was present (1) 		

Q11.

Question Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark	
	An explanation that makes reference to the following	ALLOW converse for all points for the effects of a decrease in temperature		
	an increase in temperature will increase the rate of { decomposition / decay } (1)	ALLOW high temperatures may denature enzymes and decrease		
	(an increase in temperature) increases enzyme activity (1)	rate of decomposition		
	an increase in temperature increases growth rate of {bacteria / fungi / decomposers} (1)	ALLOW increases rate of multiplication	(3)	

Q12.

Question	Answer	Mark
Number		
(i)	The only correct answer is C – polynucleotides and phospholipids	
	A is incorrect because phosphate is not in cellulose	
	B is incorrect because polysaccharides do not contain phosphate	
	D is incorrect because phosphate is not in polysaccharides	
		(1)

Question Number	Answer	Additional guidance	Mark
(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to three of the following		
	the stems contain starch or cellulose(1)	ALLOW lignin	
	enzymes are { secreted / released } by the microorganisms (1)	ALLOW enzymes from microorganisms	
	which break down the glycosidic bonds(1)	digest(starch/ cellulose)	
	which releases glucose that is used by the microorganisms in respiration (1)		(3)

Q13.

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(i)	A description that makes reference to three of the following:		
	 heat to 90-98°C { to break hydrogen bonds between (DNA) strands / separate the strands of DNA} (1) 	ALLOW heating to 90-98°C to break hydrogen bonds or to unzip DNA or to denature the DNA	
	 { joining of primers / annealing } at 50- 75°C (1) 	ALLOW 'binding/aligning' for joining	
	 { elongating / extension / addition of nucleotides } / DNA polymerase involved in formation of phosphodiester bonds (1) 	ALLOW description of production of complementary strands of DNA ALLOW taq polymerase	(3)
	to double the quantity (of the DNA) (1)	ALLOW replication for doubling	

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)		Example of calculation	
	calculation correct	2 ²⁰	
	 correct answer provided (1) 	1 048 576 (> 1 000 000) or 1.05 × 10 ⁶	
		Correct answer without working scores full marks	(2)

Q14.

Question Number	Answer	Additio	ona	l Guida	ance	2				Mark
(i)	An answer that makes reference to the following:		Е	48.8	4	23.6	4	0	0	1
	 correct ranking for both columns (1) 		F	50.1	7	24.2	5	2	4	
	correct difference in rank (1)		G	49.2	6	23.1	2	4	16	
	correct difference squared (1)	-2 and	-4 a	are inco	rrec	t differ	ences	s in ra	ank	(3)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)		Example of calculation	
	 numerator (top line of formula) correctly calculated (1) 	6 x 34 or 204	
	 denominator (bottom line of formula) correctly calculated (1) 	7 x 48 or 336	(3)
	correct answer (1)	0.3929 / 0.393 / 0.39 Correct answer with no working scores full marks	

Question Number			Mark	
(iii)	An answer that makes reference to the following:			
	no (significant) correlation (1)	ALLOW not statistically significant		
		ECF - ALLOW significant correlation if the value calculated for 3aii is greater than { cv for 0.05 / 0.786 }		
	as the calculated figure is less than	ALLOW 5% FOR 0.05		
	{ 0.786 / the critical value for p= 0.05 } (1)	ECF- ALLOW calculated value is greater than the cv if the value calculated for 3aii is greater than 0.786	(2)	

Q15.

Question Number			Mark
(i)	An answer that makes reference to the following: • measure temperature from { several readings / random positions } (within the group of larvae) (1)	ALLOW stated number of measurements	
	description of how mean calculated (1)	e.g. readings summated and answer divided by number of readings taken ALLOW 'average' for mean	(2)

Question Number	Answer	Additional Guidance	Mark
(ii)	An explanation that makes reference to the following:		
	 increases enzyme activity for (larvae / species F) (1) 	ALLOW description of increase in activity including maximizes rate of growth/digestion, shorter lifecycle IGNORE ref to metabolic activity unqualified	
	 high temperature { kills / denatures enzymes of } other species (1) 		
	(high temperature) increases food availability by { reducing competition from other species / increasing rate of decomposition of rhino } (1)	ALLOW outcompetes other {species / larvae} for food	(3)