

Populations & Sustainability

Question Paper 1

Level	A Level
Subject	Biology
Exam Board	OCR
Module	Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
Topic	Populations & sustainability
Booklet	Question Paper 1

Time allowed: 47 minutes

Score: /35

Percentage: /100

Grade Boundaries:

A*	A	B	C	D	E
>69%	56%	50%	42%	34%	26%

Question 1

The commercially grown tobacco plant, *Nicotiana rustica*, has many pests. One such insect pest is *Manduca sexta*, which causes damage to the stems and leaves of *N. rustica*.

The tiny wasp *Cotesia congregata* lays its eggs inside the body of *M. sexta*. When the larvae develop they feed on the body of the host, eventually killing it.

N. rustica produces a volatile organic compound called volicitin when its leaves are damaged.

Volicitin attracts *C. congregata* at high concentrations.

Which of the following explains why *N. rustica* releases volicitin?

- 1 volicitin release reduces herbivory in *N. rustica*
- 2 volicitin release increases *M. sexta* growth rate
- 3 volicitin release reduces parasitism of *M. sexta* by *C. congregata*

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. Only 1 and 2
- C. Only 2 and 3
- D. Only 1

[Total: 1]

Penguins are flightless birds that eat fish. Most species of penguin live near the coast of Antarctica or on the many islands that surround Antarctica.

Fig. 17 shows the populations of three penguin species on an island off the coast of Antarctica.

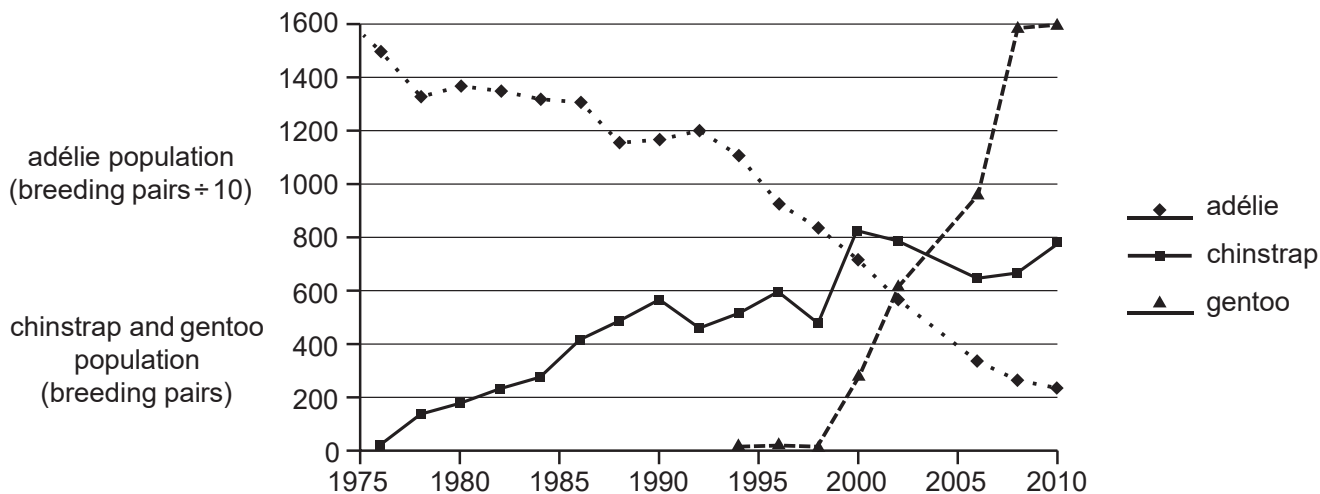


Fig. 17

- (a) (i) Before 1975 the only penguin species on the island was the adélie penguin. Chinstrap penguins were first recorded on the island in 1976.

The changes in the chinstrap penguin population are not directly related to abiotic factors.

Suggest explanations for the changes in the population of **chinstrap** penguins between 1976 and 2010.

[3]

- (ii) Calculate the mean annual decrease in the **adélie** penguin population between **1988** and **2010**.

Show your working. Give your answer to **three significant figures**.

[2]

- (b) Adélie penguins need a habitat that contains sea-ice. Gentoo and chinstrap penguins can survive without access to sea ice.

Scientists have claimed that the population changes in the three penguin species on the island suggests that the Antarctic temperature is increasing.

- (i) Discuss whether the information in Fig. 17 supports the scientists' claim.

You should refer to the data in Fig. 17 in your answer.

[3]

- (ii) Scientists working in the local area monitored water temperatures and populations of other water animals around the island between 1976 and 2010.

Suggest **two** further pieces of evidence that the scientists might have found to support their claim.

[2]

[Total: 10]

Question 3

The Madidi National Park, in the South American rainforest, is home to a wide variety of species. The largest predator in the area is the jaguar. These large cats are well camouflaged and hunt mostly at night. A single individual can cover a very large area.

(a) In 2007 the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) attempted to estimate the population of jaguars in the Madidi National Park.

- Digital camera traps were placed in areas that jaguars were likely to visit.
- If an infrared beam was broken by an animal, the camera was activated.
- The camera then took a photograph of the animal.

(i) Suggest why it was **not** appropriate to estimate the number of jaguars using the capture-recapture technique. [2]

(ii) Most studies estimate the population density of jaguars in the South American rainforest to be 5 individuals per 100 km².

In the 2007 study:

- 100 camera traps were set up covering an area of 271 km².
- 28 images of 9 different jaguars were recorded.

How well do these results support a population estimate of 5 individuals per 100 km²? [4]

(iii) Other evidence used to estimate the jaguar population includes footprints and reports of sightings by local humans.

Suggest one disadvantage of each of these methods for estimating the size of the jaguar population.

human sightings

Footprints

[2]

- (b) The Madidi National Park is also home to approximately 260 000 humans who support themselves by means of cattle-farming, and the production of timber and brazil nuts (a large nut harvested from a local native tree).

Conservationists have been working with:

- local people to promote sustainable use of these resources; and
- government agencies to maintain the quality of the national park.

Explain why the Madidi National Park is an example of conservation rather than preservation.

[3]

[Total: 11]

This question is about management of ecosystems.

Mink are small carnivorous mammals. In recent years, many mink have escaped from fur farms.

The Hebridean Mink Project is working to remove this invasive species from Scottish islands. The mink arrive on an island by swimming. Once on the island, they reproduce and act as predators on the native mice.

Fig. 1.1 is a graph recording the growth of a mink population from its first arrival on a new island.

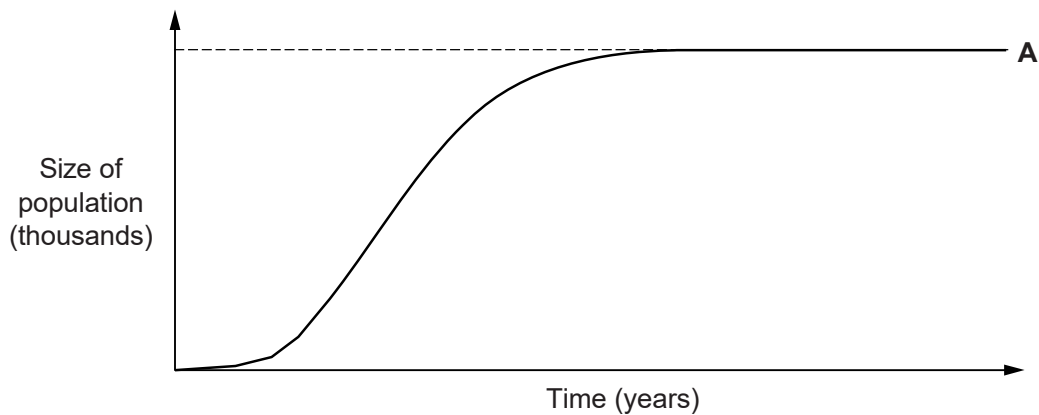


Fig. 1.1

- (a) (i) The line **A** represents a limiting level to the size of the mink population on the island. The number of mink will not increase beyond it.

What name do ecologists give to such a limiting level for a population in a particular area?

[1]

- (ii) Suggest **two** factors that limit the mink numbers on the island.

[2]

- (b) In the last century, large areas of natural woodland on the Scottish mainland were removed by the Forestry Commission. The large areas of land were replanted with closely-spaced conifer trees.

As the young conifers grew, they reduced the light reaching the ground. Other plant species died.

When mature, the conifers were felled for industries like paper and chipboard. The area was left covered with unwanted conifer branches.

- (i) This method of producing timber is now regarded as **ecologically** undesirable.

Suggest why.

[2]

Fig. 1.2 is a photograph of a woodland that is managed differently.



Fig. 1.2

- (ii) The woodland in Fig. 1.2 can supply timber continuously, sustainably and economically. Discuss some social, aesthetic and ethical benefits of managing woodland in this way compared to coniferous monoculture.

[4]

- (c) The tall 'oak standards' in woodland like those in Fig. 1.2 are cut down close to ground level for sale to sawmills. Certain tree species, like the English elm (*Ulmus procera*) respond to the loss of a main trunk by natural vegetative propagation.
- (i) Describe how this vegetative propagation would proceed after the cutting down of elm trees in such a woodland.

[2]

- (ii) Vegetative propagation allows trees to survive the loss of a main trunk due to a natural event like fire or high winds. In Britain, many elm trees have been lost because of 'Dutch elm disease'. This disease is caused by the fungus *Ophiostoma ulmi*.

Why might vegetative propagation be less effective at enabling a tree to survive Dutch elm disease, compared to surviving fire or high wind?

[2]

[Total: 13]