



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
January 2012

Centre Number

71	
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Candidate Number

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## Biology

### Assessment Unit AS 2

*assessing*

### Organisms and Biodiversity

[AB121]



WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

#### TIME

1 hour 30 minutes.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this question paper.

There is an extra lined page at the end of the paper if required.

Answer **all eight** questions.

You are provided with **Photograph 2.2** for use with **Question 2** in this paper. Do not write your answers on this photograph.

#### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 75.

Section A carries 60 marks. Section B carries 15 marks.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

Use accurate scientific terminology in all answers.

You should spend approximately **20 minutes** on Section B.

You are expected to answer Section B in continuous prose.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **Section B**, and awarded a maximum of 2 marks.

For Examiner's use only

Question Number	Marks
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Total Marks	
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## Section A

1 Identify the terms described by each of the following statements.

- An index used to measure species diversity.

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- A group of individuals that closely resemble each other and are capable of interbreeding to produce fertile offspring.

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- The role of an organism in its environment.

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- Ecological factors in soil, such as pH, aeration of soil and nutrient availability, that influence the distribution of organisms.

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[4]

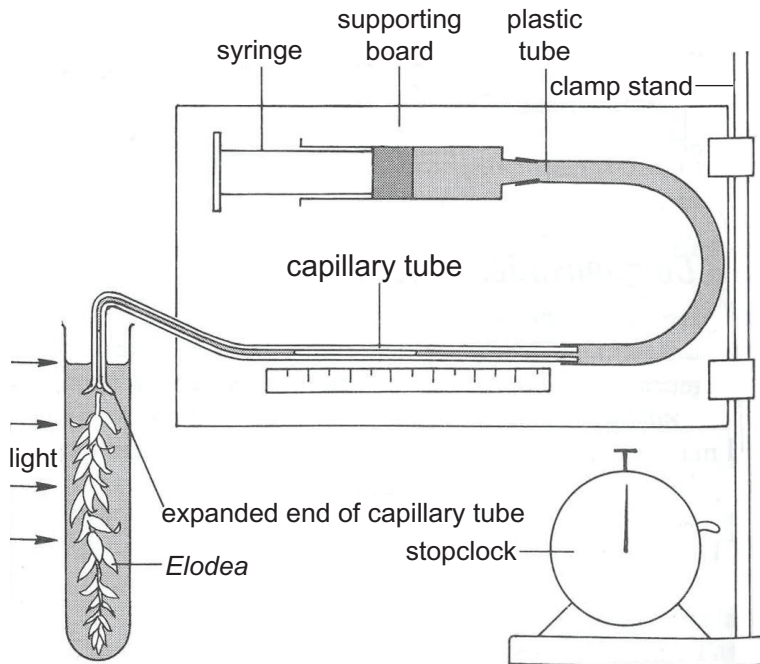
Examiner Only

Marks

Remark



3 The diagram below shows the Audus apparatus. This is used to measure the rate of photosynthesis in a water plant like Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*). The volume of oxygen produced is used as a measure of the rate of photosynthesis.



© Advanced Biology Principles and Applications by C J Clegg with D G MacKeen, P H Openshaw and R C Reynolds, published by Hodder Murray, 1996

(a) The pondweed is placed in a solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate during the experiment. Explain the reason for this.

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

(b) A lamp was placed known distances from the pondweed to investigate the effect of light intensity on the rate of photosynthesis. State **one** factor which should have been monitored in order to ensure the validity of the experiment.

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

Examiner Only	
Marks	Remark

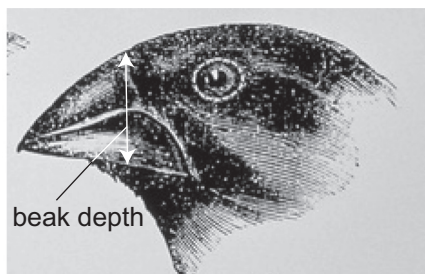






- 5 The medium ground finch, *Geospiza fortis*, is found on the island of Daphne Major in the Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador. The species was one of many noted by Charles Darwin, when he visited the islands in 1835.

Since 1973, other scientists have been studying this finch in relation to natural selection. One characteristic they have studied is the depth of the finches' beaks.



© Dr Jeremy Burgess/Science Photo Library

In 1975, the mean beak depth in the *G. fortis* population on Daphne Major was 9.42 mm. In 1978, when a new generation of birds had reached maturity, it was 9.84 mm.

- (a) Calculate the percentage increase in beak depth between 1975 and 1978. (Show your working.)

[2]

Examiner Only	
Marks	Remark





Some information about the classification of *Geospiza fortis* and three other finch species, *Vidua macroura*, *Geospiza fuliginosa* and *Certhidea olivacea* is given below.

- The small ground finch, *Geospiza fuliginosa*, is also found on the Galapagos Islands.
- *G. fortis* is a member of the order Passeriformes, as are finches of the genus *Vidua* (family Viduidae)
- Both *G. fortis* and the warbler finch, *Certhidea olivacea*, are members of the family Thraupidae.

(e) State **two** distinct types of evidence which may be used to classify species.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

(f) (i) Which of the three species is most closely related to *G. fortis*?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

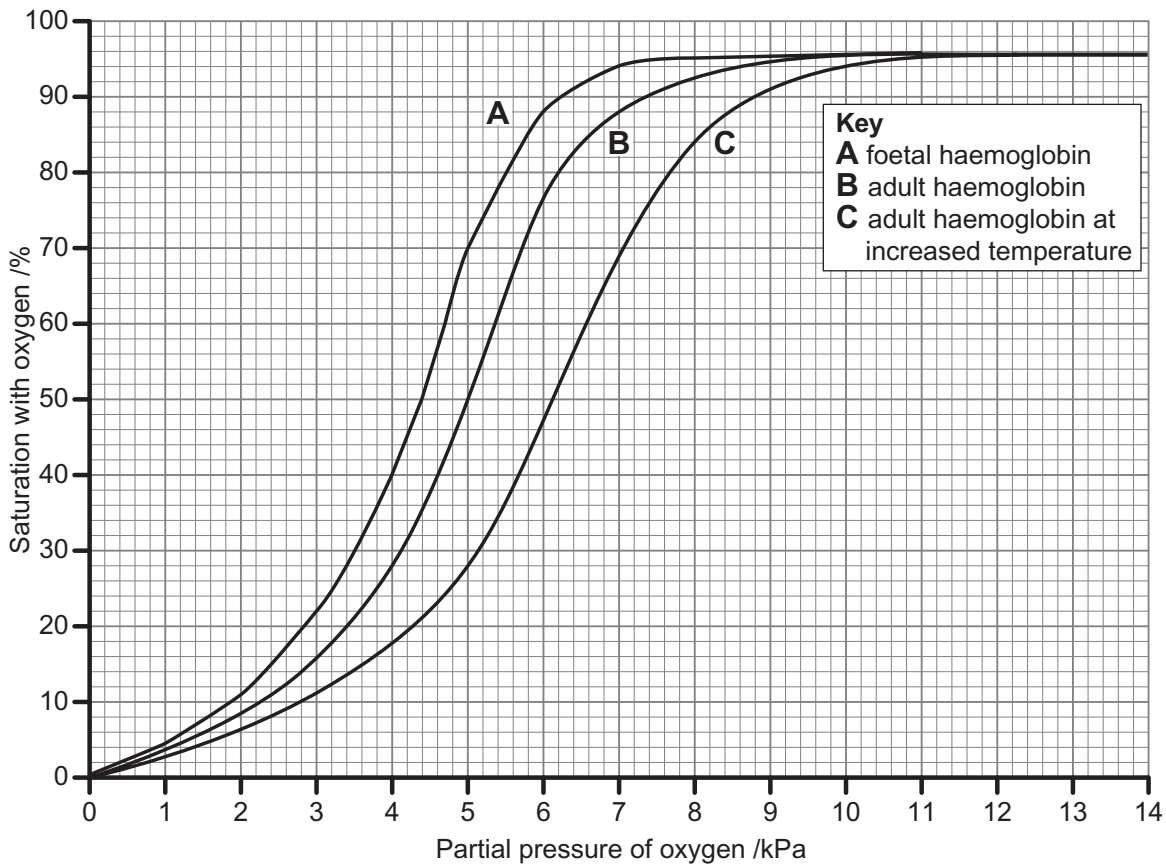
(ii) Which species is most distantly related to *G. fortis*?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

Examiner Only	
Marks	Remark



(b) The graph below shows some oxygen dissociation curves for human haemoglobin.



(i) As temperature increases, the oxygen dissociation curve for adult haemoglobin becomes displaced to the right (curve C). Explain the physiological significance of this for exercising muscles.

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[3]



- 7 Woodlands are complex ecosystems containing plants that grow to different heights. The leaf cover of the taller trees creates shade for those below. Different tree species provide varying degrees of shading. A fallen tree reduces the shading at that point.

A student was investigating the difference in ground-level plant species at different locations in a deciduous woodland ecosystem. The procedure followed by the student is outlined below.

- A transect line was positioned from the centre of the wood to the edge.
- Six sample sites were identified at 20 metre intervals along the transect line.
- One quadrat was placed at each sample site and the names of the main species present in the quadrat were recorded.

The following results were recorded by the student:

- Mosses were found mainly at site 1, but there were also some present at sites 2, 3 and 5.
- Bluebells were found in abundance at sites 2, 3 and 5 and a few were also present at site 4.
- Wood anemone was found at sites 2, 3 and 5
- Primroses were found at sites 4 and 6.
- Lesser celandine was found mainly at sites 2 and 3, but there was also a little of this at site 1.
- Grass was present at all sites but it was densest at sites 4 and 6.

- (a) Organise these results into an appropriate table to show the presence or absence of each of the species recorded by this student. The relative abundance of plants does not need to be distinguished. Your table should have a caption and suitable column headings.

Examiner Only	
Marks	Remark

[4]



(d) This student simply recorded the presence of certain species at each site, although he did comment on the relative amount of some of the species. He also made general observations on the relative light and moisture conditions at each site.

Explain how this student could have obtained more meaningful and reliable results at each sample site.

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[3]

Examiner Only	
Marks	Remark



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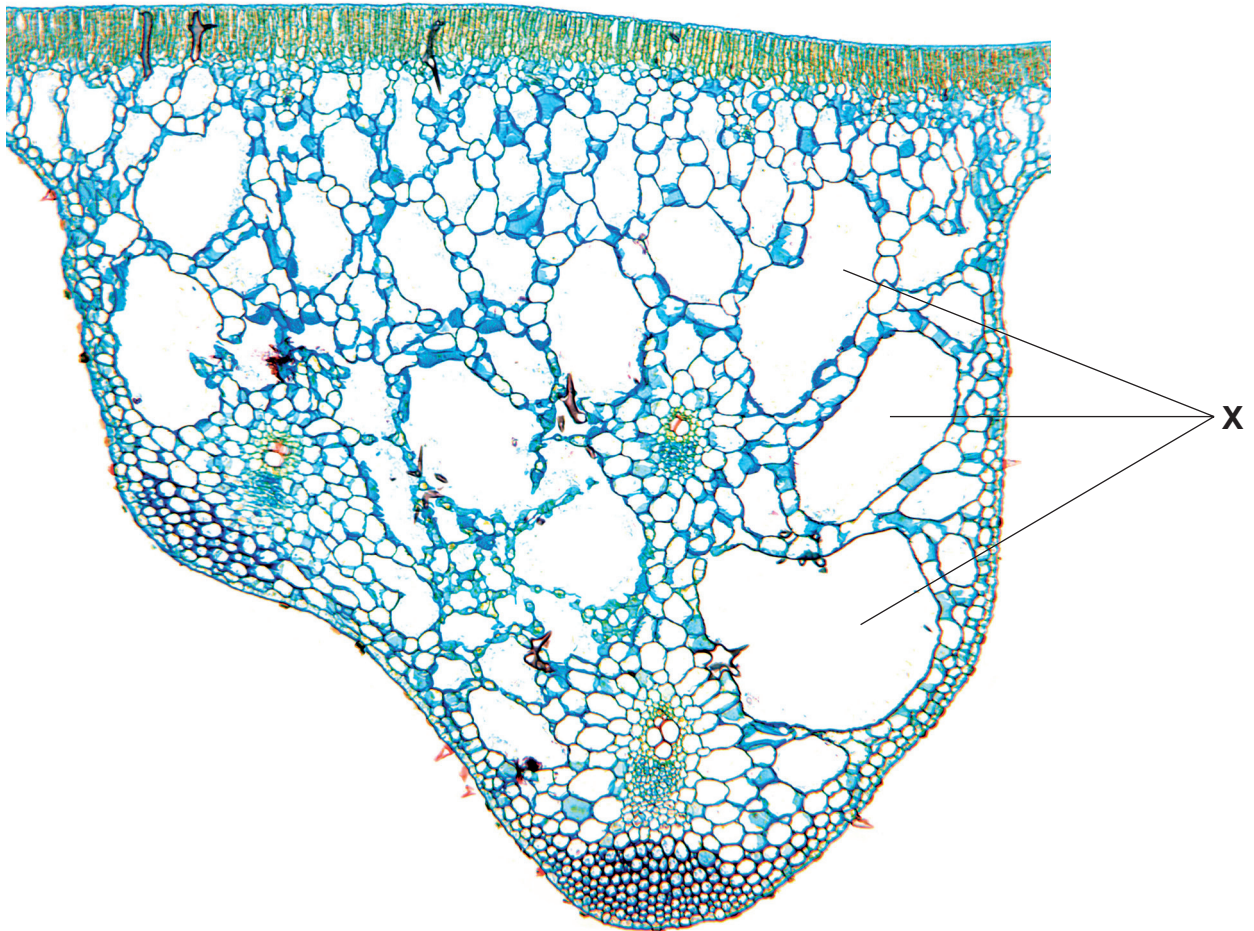


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**GCE Biology Advanced Subsidiary (AS)**  
**Assessment Unit AS 2**  
**assessing Organisms and Biodiversity**  
**January 2012**

**Photograph 2.2**  
**(For use with Question 2)**



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