SAMPLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

HUMAN BIOLOGY ATAR YEAR 12

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Sample assessment task

Human Biology - ATAR Year 12

Task 4 - Unit 3

Assessment type: Science inquiry

Conditions

Time allowed for completion of the task:

- investigation planning one class period
- conduction of investigation up to three class periods
- completion of the introduction, materials and method sections of the scientific report at home
- completion of the results, analysis and evaluation of data sections of the scientific report one period under test conditions

Task weighting

2.5% of the school mark for this pair of units

Investigation – Temperature regulation mechanisms of the human body

(45 marks)

You will be required to plan, conduct and evaluate an investigation based on the temperature regulation mechanisms of the human body. You will write up your investigation as a scientific report.

Plan the investigation

Things to consider when planning your investigation:

- research and provide background information on temperature regulation mechanisms
- devise an hypothesis and choose dependent and independent variables for your investigation
- identify variables to control
- decide upon the appropriate sample size, trials and data collection methods
- describe, in detail, the methodology you will use during your investigation
- decide upon the data recording method.

Conduct the investigation

- set up times and places for the measurements to be taken
- carry out data collection from test subjects

Commence writing the scientific report

(10 marks)

- include an introduction to the investigation
- include the background research on temperature regulation mechanisms
- write the hypothesis for the investigation
- identify the dependent and independent variables

Materials and method

(6 marks)

- include a list of materials used in the investigation
- include details on the method used to collect the data
- include design features of the investigation that ensured reliability and validity

Complete the remainder of the scientific report under test conditions.

Results (11 marks)

- show processing of raw data by identifying any outliers and working out averages
- plot appropriate graphs by hand to show results

Analysis and evaluation

(14 marks)

- describe the trend and/or pattern in your data
- state how your data relates to your hypothesis
- use your knowledge and understanding to explain the trend and/or pattern of your results
- comment on the reliability and accuracy of the data collected
- list **two** limitations in the data collection strategy that may have affected the reliability of your data and comment on how they would have affected it
- list **two** improvements you could make to the data collection strategy to improve your investigation

Conclusion (4 marks)

• summarise your findings and comment on the reliability and validity of the outcome of the investigation

Marking key for sample assessment task 4 — Unit 3

Commence writing the scientific report.

- include an introduction to the investigation
- include the background research on temperature regulation mechanisms
- write the hypothesis for the investigation
- identify the dependent and independent variables

Description	Mark
Succinctly writes a general introduction that summarises the aim of the investigation	1
Provides background information on temperature control mechanisms and the function of the	
following in maintaining constant body temperature:	
vasoconstriction/vasodilation	1
• shivering	1
• piloerection	1
• sweating	1
importance of maintaining constant body temperature, optimal for reactions	1
Writes a hypothesis relating dependent and independent variables and stating direction of	
effect	2
OR	
Writes a simple hypothesis relating dependent and independent variables without stating	
direction of effect	1
Correctly identifies the dependent and independent variables	1–2
Total	10

Materials and method

- include a list of materials used in the investigation
- include details on the method used to collect the data
- include design features of the investigation that ensured reliability and validity

Description	Mark
Clearly lists materials with quantities	2
OR	
Briefly lists materials	1
Explains the method in detail, including how the sampling and data collection will be	
determined	2
OR	
Briefly describes the method	1
Uses an appropriate sample size and number of trials to increase reliability	1
States how the effects of uncontrolled variables and other factors were minimised during data	1
collection in order to increase validity	1
Total	6

Results

- show processing of raw data by identifying any outliers and working out averages
- plot appropriate graphs by hand to show results

Description	Mark
Records raw data in an appropriate format	
uses headings	1
groups relevant data	1
records repeat trials	1
Carries out simple processing of raw data	
calculates mean values	1
uses appropriate format for recording data	1
Identifies outliers in the raw data	1
Plots a/an appropriate graph/s of the processed data using correct conventions	
uses appropriate title, stating independent and dependent variables	1
correctly labels axes with names	1
labels axes with units	1
uses correct type of graph	1
plotted graph correctly	1
Total	11

Analysis and evaluation

- describe the trend and/or pattern in your data
- state how your data relates to your hypothesis
- use your knowledge and understanding to explain the trend and/or pattern of your results
- comment on the reliability and validity of the data collected
- list **two** limitations in the data collection strategy that may have affected the reliability of your data and comment on how they would have affected it
- list **two** improvements you could make to the data collection strategy to improve your investigation

Description	Mark
Describes the trends and patterns in the processed data	1
Makes a valid statement about the trends and patterns using data collected	2
OR	
Describes the trends but no data included	1
Makes a valid statement about the trends and relates it to hypothesis	1
Explains data using scientific knowledge and understanding and provides detail on the	
changes to the body during exercise for temperature control, including breathing rate,	
circulation and sweating	2
OR	
Explains data using scientific knowledge and understanding and provides generalised changes	1
to body during exercise without using correct or appropriate terminology	
Comments on the reliability of the raw data collected, using correct terminology, such as	
repeat trials or greater number of test subjects	2
OR	
Makes comments on the reliability of the raw data collected that are generalised and not	1
related to repeat trials or more test subjects	
Comments on the validity of the raw data collected, using correct terminology, such as	
variables being controlled to eliminate sources of error	2
OR	
Makes comments on the validity of the raw data collected that are generalised and not	1
related to control of variables	

Description	Mark
Lists two limitations in the data collection strategy that may have affected the accuracy or precision of the raw data collected – one mark for each limitation	1–2
Suggests at least two improvements to the data collection strategy – one mark for each improvement	1–2
Total	14

Conclusion

• summarise your findings and comment on the reliability and validity of the outcome of the investigation

Description	Mark
Summarises results of the investigation with the use of data	2
OR	
Summarises the results with generalised comments	1
Comments on the validity of the outcome of the investigation by relating it back to the	2
hypothesis	2
OR	1
Comments on the validity of the outcomes of the investigation	1
Total	4

Sample assessment task

Human Biology – ATAR Year 12

Task 7 - Unit 3

Assessment type: Test

Conditions

Time for the task: 60 minutes

Task weighting

4% of the school mark for this pair of units

Response to infection

Part A: Multiple-choice (15 marks)

This section has 15 questions. Answer all questions on the multiple-choice answer sheet provided.

- 1. Antibiotics are often ineffective against viruses because viruses
 - keep changing their external protein coat. (a)
 - (b) are able to disguise themselves in the host cell membrane.
 - (c) are not true living cells, so their metabolism is not affected by antibiotics.
 - (d) can destroy or inhibit the actions of antibiotics in living cells.
- 2. The advantage of a naturally acquired, active immunity is that it
 - is long lasting, sometimes for life. (a)
 - (b) can develop without exposure to antigen.
 - (c) produces antibodies against a range of infective agents.
 - provides antibodies immediately the first time one is exposed to a particular bacterium. (d)
- Macrophages are large white blood cells that 3.
 - (a) divide to produce B lymphocytes.
 - (b) engulf bacteria and destroy them.
 - (c) produce antibodies against specific antigens.
 - secrete bacterial-destroying enzymes into the blood. (d)
- 4. Which of the following is an example of passive natural immunity?
 - The body manufactures antibodies in response to an invading pathogen. (a)
 - (b) Antibodies enter the blood stream via an injection of antitoxin.
 - (c) The body manufactures antibodies after an injection of toxoids.
 - Antibodies enter the blood stream from mother to foetus across the placenta. (d)

- 5. Which of the following differentiates correctly between antibiotics and vaccines?
 - (a) Antibiotics treat for an invading bacterium, while many vaccines involve the introduction of an inactivated pathogen into the bloodstream.
 - (b) Antibiotics provide long-lasting immunity due to the production of memory cells, while vaccines only provide short-term immunity.
 - (c) Antibiotics provide artificial, active immunity, while vaccines provide artificial, passive immunity.
 - (d) Antibiotics are often injected into the bloodstream, while vaccines are normally ingested in pill form.
- 6. Which of the following statements best describes what is most likely to happen when an individual receives a vaccination containing a weakened pathogen?

The ability to

- (a) fight the disease caused by the pathogen will increase due to antibody production.
- (b) fight the disease will increase due to antibodies received from the pathogen.
- (c) produce antibodies will decrease after vaccination.
- (d) resist most types of diseases will increase.
- 7. Micro-organisms that cause disease in other living organisms are known as
 - (a) decomposers.
 - (b) antigens.
 - (c) antibiotics.
 - (d) pathogens.
- 8. A virus is injected into an animal and the animal is then left to fight the infection by making antibodies to the virus. The antibodies can then be removed from the animal and injected into a human who is infected with the same virus. This is an example of
 - (a) natural immunity.
 - (b) innate immunity.
 - (c) passive immunisation.
 - (d) active immunisation.
- 9. One important response to an infection is the antigen-antibody reaction. Which of the following is **NOT** a feature of such a reaction?
 - (a) The antibody is specific for a particular antigen.
 - (b) Antibodies are found in blood plasma and are all proteins.
 - (c) The range of antibodies possessed by an individual is inherited and has been present since birth.
 - (d) Antibodies are associated with phagocytes in protecting the body.

- 10. A typical characteristic of a virus is that it
 - (a) is destroyed by antibiotics.
 - (b) releases toxins into the body of the host.
 - (c) evades detection by the host's immune system.
 - (d) manipulates the host cell's DNA to produce copies of itself.
- 11. The table lists the types of microbes identified in a cheeseburger prepared at an outdoor market.

Type of microbe	Description of microbe
Staphylococcus epidermidis	Common skin organism
Lactobacillus bulgari	Organism present in dairy products
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	Baker's yeast
Pacillus subtilis	Non-pathogenic microbe with widespread
Bacillus subtilis	environmental occurrence

Would it be safe to eat this cheeseburger? Choose the best answer from the following.

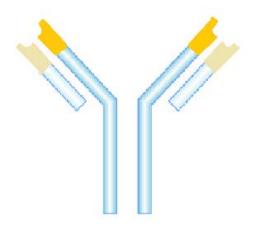
- (a) No, food should be completely free of microbes
- (b) No, Lactobacillus and Saccharomyces are highly pathogenic
- (c) Yes, organisms that grow in or on the human body do not cause disease
- (d) Yes, most of the food we eat is contaminated by different microbes
- 12. An example of specific immunity is the
 - (a) action of mucus to remove bacteria from the respiratory tract.
 - (b) presence of 'natural flora' bacteria in different areas of the body.
 - (c) presence of antibacterial agents, such as enzymes, in saliva.
 - (d) action of memory cells when an individual is subjected to a second infection of measles.
- 13. After contact with the polio virus, a child developed polio and recovered. Twelve months later, the child came in contact with the polio virus again but did not show any symptoms of the disease. This happened because, shortly after the first infection, the child
 - (a) had an injection of polio antibodies.
 - (b) grew memory B cells specific to polio.
 - (c) grew memory B cells that could respond to any virus.
 - (d) developed T cells that consumed the new polio virus particles.
- 14. Penicillin is an example of an
 - (a) antibiotic.
 - (b) antibody.
 - (c) antigen.
 - (d) antitoxin.

15. The following diagrams show the antigens on the surface of different bacteria isolated from an open wound.



Antigen 1 Antigen 2 Antigen 3 Antigen 4

An antibody was also detected. It is shown below.



This antibody is most likely to react to antigen

- (a) 1.
- (b) 2.
- (c) 3.
- (d) 4.

End of Part A

Part B: Short answer

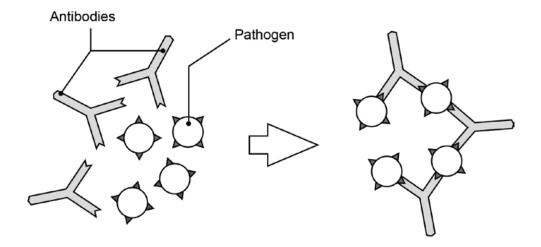
Artificial

This section has three questions. Answer all questions in the spaces provided.				
16.		n be classed as passive or active and na ne different types of immunity.	atural or artificial. Complete the t	able below, (4 marks)
		Passive	Active	
	Natural			

(31 marks)

17. The diagram below shows one of the actions of antibodies on pathogens.

(5 marks)



(a) What action of antibodies does the diagram represent?

(1 mark)

(b) Describe **three** other ways in which antibodies can act on pathogens to help fight infection. (3 marks)

1:_____

2:_____

3:_____

(c) Name the type of lymphocyte responsible for the production of antibodies. (1 mark)

18.	(a)	The effects of many diseases have been minimised in many countries due to the introduction of live attenuated vaccines. A live attenuated vaccine uses a weakened version of the disease-causing pathogen to stimulate an immune response in the vaccinated person. The MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination program attracts a lot of media attention, which highlights some of the risks and ethical considerations associated with the use of vaccines.
		Discuss two benefits and two risks for the use of vaccines. (4 marks
		Benefits:
		Risks:
	(b)	Vaccines are designed to work against specific microbes and can be produced in a number of ways.
		Complete the following table on the different types of vaccines (12 marks

Vaccine type	Description	Advantage	Disadvantage
Live attenuated			
Inactivated/ dead microbe			
Toxoid			
Polysaccharide conjugate			

c)	Outline the action of B-lymphocytes in antibody mediated immunity.	(6 marks)

End of Test

Marking key for sample assessment task 7 - Unit 3

Test: Response to infection

Part A: Multiple-choice

Description		Marks
Question	Answer	
1	b	1
2	С	1
3	b	1
4	d	1
5	a	1
6	a	1
7	d	1
8	С	1
9	С	1
10	d	1
11	С	1
12	d	1
13	b	1
14	а	1
15	С	1
	Total	15

Part B: Short answer

16. Immunity can be classed as passive or active and natural or artificial. Complete the table below, describing the different types of immunity.

		Description		Mark
	Natural	Passive Antibodies enter bloodstream by transfer across the placenta or	Active Antibodies produced by body as a result of being infected by a	
	Artificial	through breast milk Antibodies are introduced into blood stream	pathogen Antibodies produced by the body as a result of an antigen being introduced by vaccination	1-4
			Total	4

- 17. The diagram below shows one of the actions of antibodies on pathogens.
 - (a) What action of antibodies does the diagram represent?

Description	Mark
Agglutination/clumping together of pathogens	1
Total	1

(b) Describe **three** other ways in which antibodies can act on pathogens to help fight infection.

Description	Mark
neutralise them/inactivate them/produce toxins	
bind to surfaces of virus	
prevent virus decoating/prevent them from entering the cell/coat bacteria	
enhance phagocytosis/make them more easily consumed	1.2
phagocytes/macrophages/opson/opsonisation combine with foreign bacterial toxins	1–3
dissolve organisms/membrane	
make soluble substances insoluble/form a precipitate	
make bacteria/foreign cell membranes permeable/lysins/lysination	
Total	3

(c) Name the type of lymphocyte responsible for the production of antibodies.

Description	Mark
B/B cells/plasma cells	1
Total	1

- 18. The effects of many diseases have been minimised in many countries due to the introduction of live attenuated vaccines. A live attenuated vaccine uses a weakened version of the disease-causing pathogen to stimulate an immune response in the vaccinated person. The MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination program attracts a lot of media attention, which highlights some of the risks and ethical considerations associated with the use of vaccines.
 - (a) Discuss **two** benefits and **two** risks for the use of vaccines.

Description	Mark
Benefits:	
causes an immune response to develop long-term immunity	
stops an individual from contracting disease	
 herd immunity/if enough people vaccinated, then could stop pathogens infecting whole populations 	1–2
generally only requires a single dose for immunity to develop	
fewer side effects	
Risks:	
mild allergic reactions to vaccine	1–2
reversion of pathogen to more virulent form	1-2
can't be given to immune-compromised patients	
Total	4

(b) Vaccines are designed to work against specific microbes and can be produced in a number of ways.

Complete the following table on the different types of vaccines.

Description			Mark	
Vaccine type	Description	Advantage	Disadvantage	
	1 mark for one point in each category/heading			
Live attenuated	 consists of weakened virus or bacteria doesn't cause disease stimulates an immune response 	closest to developing natural immunity long-term immunity	needs to be refrigerated can revert to virulent form	1–3
Inactivated/dead microbe	contains either whole or parts of killed virus or bacteria	 stable and safe easily stored and transported	stimulates a weaker immune response requires several doses or 'booster'	1–3
Toxoid	contains toxins produced by bacteria that have been inactivated	• safer	weaker immune response developed requires booster	1–3
Polysaccharide conjugate	contains polysaccharides joined to immune- stimulating molecules (protein)	 long-lasting immunity protection for babies and toddlers 	expensive and complex to produce	1–3
			Total	12

(c) Outline the action of B-lymphocytes in antibody mediated immunity.

Description	Mark
Antigen reaches lymphoid tissue	
B lymphocytes stimulated and undergo division	1
New B cells develop into plasma cells	1
Plasma cells produce antibodies and release into blood and lymph	1
Antibodies combine with antigen and inactivate or destroy it	1
Some of the B cells form memory cells	1
Total	6

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Question 15** Adapted from: Fvasconcellos. (2007). *Antigens* [Image] (public domain). Retrieved March 27, 2015, from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Antibody.svg
- **Question 17** Adapted from: *The actions of antibodies on pathogens* [Diagram]. Retrieved January, 2012, from http://leavingbio.net/The%20Human%20Defence%20System-web-2.htm.

Sample assessment task

Human Biology - ATAR Year 12

Task 9 - Unit 4

Assessment type: Extended response

Conditions

Time for the task:

Part A: Two lessons to research topic and complete notes. You may not use these notes for Part B.

Part B: One lesson for in-class validation – examination-style extended answer question.

Task weighting

7.5% of the school mark for this pair of units

Further evidence for evolution: comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics

Part A: Research notes (5 marks)

On November 24, 1859, On the Origin of Species was published. In this book, Charles Darwin introduced a scientific theory – the Theory of Evolution. Darwin's work illustrated that populations evolve over time through a process of natural selection. Darwin based his theory on the evidence available to him at the time – personal observations from his travels on the *HMS Beagle* and fossil evidence. He also used the writings of Sir Charles Lyell and Thomas Malthus to support his views.

Further evidence to support this theory comes from the relatively new fields of comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics.

- 1. (a) Research the following:
 - the human genome project
 - comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics
 - processes involved in comparative genomics and comparative biochemistry
 - the use of comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics as evidence for the Theory of Evolution
 - the benefits of using comparative genomics, comparative biochemistry and bioinformatics
 - applications that exist for the use of comparative genomics and comparative biochemistry.
 (3 marks)
 - (b) You must include your references in a standard referencing format of your choice; for example, APA, MLA, Harvard or Chicago. Hand this in as a separate sheet attached to your note-taking sheet. (2 marks)

Part B: In-class assessment (20 marks)

Answer each part of the following question on the lined paper provided.

Responses could include clearly labelled diagrams with explanatory notes; lists of points with linking sentences; clearly labelled tables and graphs; and annotated flow diagrams with introductory notes.

- 2. (a) A source of evidence for evolution is the examination of fossils and their surroundings.

 Different comparative studies may also be used to support the theory of evolution. Two of these involve studies in biochemistry; namely, protein sequences and DNA.
 - Describe the **two** comparative studies, protein sequences and DNA, and explain how they show evidence for evolution. (10 marks)
 - (b) The Human Genome Project has provided more supporting evidence for the theory of evolution by providing a better comparison between the DNA of modern humans and hominids and extinct humans and hominid species. Explain how the project could also help to treat genetically inherited diseases. (3 marks)
 - (c) Discuss how comparative genomics works with bioinformatics to determine evolutionary relationships. (7 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 9 — Unit 4

Further evidence for evolution: comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics.

- 1. (a) Research the following:
 - the human genome project
 - comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics
 - processes involved in comparative genomics and comparative biochemistry
 - the use of comparative biochemistry, comparative genomics and bioinformatics as support for the Theory of Evolution
 - the benefits of using comparative genomics, comparative biochemistry and bioinformatics
 - applications that exist for the use of comparative genomics and comparative biochemistry.

Description	Marks
Research presented in a note-taking format	1
Notes are concise and do not include irrelevant information	1
Notes cover all recommended research areas	1
Total	3

(b) You must include your references in a standard referencing format of your choice; for example, APA, MLA, Harvard or Chicago. Hand this in as a separate sheet attached to your note-taking sheet.

Description	Marks
Minimum of four references	1
Correct format used for selected referencing type	1
Total	2

2. (a) A source of evidence for evolution is the examination of fossils and their surroundings. Different comparative studies may also be used to support the theory of evolution. Two of these involve studies in biochemistry, namely protein sequences and DNA.

Describe the **two** comparative studies, protein sequences and DNA, and explain how they show evidence for evolution.

Description	Marks
Protein sequences	
 proteins made of long chains of amino acids determines the type and sequence of amino acids/describes a method of sequencing Western blotting to detect specific proteins in a sample using similar/ubiquitous proteins (e.g. cytochrome c) in different species compares the sequence in different species 	1–4
Species that are distantly related have more differences in their amino acid sequence/closely related, more similarities/more time has passed since common ancestry	1
 DNA code/sequence in DNA is different for different species determines the sequence hybridisation/forming hybrid DNA from different species/more heat required to separate strands that have been fused from two species, more similar DNA/electrophoresis/other new methods of sequencing use of ERVs/virus inserting into a gamete DNA to compare non-functional DNA compares the sequence in different species 	1–4
Species that are distantly related have more differences in their DNA/closely related, more similarities/more time has passed since common ancestry	1
OR	
 Mitochondrial DNA code/sequence in DNA is different for different species determine sequence hybridisation/forming hybrid DNA from different species/more heat required to separate strands that have been fused from two species, more similar DNA/electrophoresis/other new methods of sequencing inherited only from the mother higher rate of mutation than nuclear DNA amount of mutation corresponds to amount of time passed 	1–4
Estimate closeness of relationship through maternal ancestry/useful for same species or closely related species/more time has passed since common ancestry	1
Total	10

(b) The Human Genome Project has provided more supporting evidence for the theory of evolution by providing a better comparison between the DNA of modern humans and hominids and extinct humans and hominid species. Explain how the project could also help to treat genetically inherited diseases.

Description	Marks
Three points discussed on how the project could help to treat genetically inherited	
diseases	
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
allows faulty/mutated genes to be identified	
once identified, the reason for the dysfunction/abnormal protein can	
potentially be identified	
potentially, then, genes can be replaced/switched off/bypassed/gene therapy	1–3
treated with correct protein to cure the disease/genetic engineering	
genetic counselling	
develop individually specific treatments	
Total	3

(c) Discuss how comparative genomics works with bioinformatics to determine evolutionary relationships.

Description	Marks
Seven points discussed on how comparative genomics and bioinformatics are used	1–7
Total	7
Answer could include, but is not limited to:	
 the genome is a complete sequence of the base pairs that make up all of the DNA of an organism/including genes comparative genomics allows the comparison of two or more genomes the base sequences in DNA can be expressed as data that is easily read by computer software bioinformatics provides the IT platform for the data provided by genomics this platform is capable of storing and managing the large amount of information provided by genomic studies bioinformatics allows for the analysis and comparison of genomes by analysing the similarities and differences between the genomes, it is possible to determine the evolutionary closeness of the organisms the more DNA two organisms have in common, the closer the evolutionary relationship comparisons of genomes provide information on genes essential for life which, in turn, can lead to a possible mechanism for evolution 	1–7