

7.1.1 Communities

AQA GCSE Biology (Higher) Question and answer notes

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How to use these notes

These notes cover everything you need to know for this part of the specification. They have been written in question-answer format to make them easier for you to study from.

In order to study successfully, I recommend you do the following for each question and answer:

- Read it carefully and make sure you **understand** it.
- **Memorise** the answer.
- **Practice** applying your understanding to past exam questions.

A good way to memorise information is to use **retrieval practice**. This is when you practise retrieving information from your memory. You could do this by making a flashcard for each question with the question on one side and the answer on the other. Or you could use a flashcard app. Alternatively, use a sheet of paper to cover up the answer so you can only see the question. Try to answer the question and then check how you did.

You should practise retrieving each answer from your memory until you can do it perfectly. Even once you can retrieve the answer perfectly, your ability to retrieve it will probably fade as time passes without practising. Therefore you will need to keep going back to the questions that you have previously mastered and practising them again. However, each time you re-learn the answer, the memory will be stronger and will last longer than the time before.

What is an organism?

An organism is an individual living thing.

What is a habitat?

A habitat is the place where an organism lives.

What is a population?

A population is a group of organisms all of the same species living together in a habitat.

What is a community?

A community is all of the organisms of all species living in a particular habitat.

What is an ecosystem?

An ecosystem is a system made up of a habitat, the community of organisms living in it, all of the interactions between those organisms, and all of their interactions with the non-living parts of their environment.

What is competition?

Competition is when multiple different organisms are trying to obtain the same limited set of resources. Competition can happen between individuals of the same species or between individuals of different species.

What types of resources do plants often compete with each other for?

Plants often compete with each other for:

- Light
- Space
- Water from the soil
- Mineral ions from the soil

What types of resources do animals often compete with each other for?

Animals often compete with each other for:

- Food
- Mates
- Territory

What is adaptation?

Adaptation is when species evolve to have characteristics that are well suited to their environment. This makes the individuals of the species more likely to survive and reproduce in their habitat.

What is interdependence?

Interdependence is when different species within a community depend on each other for their survival and reproduction.

What are some ways in which species can depend on other species?

Ways in which species can depend on other species include:

- Food - some species eat other species
- Shelter - for example, some birds live in trees
- Pollination - for example, some plants are pollinated by insects
- Seed dispersal - for example, the seeds of some plants are dispersed by animals that eat their fruit

What is a stable community?

A stable community is a community in which all the species and environmental factors are in balance so that population sizes remain fairly constant.