

# 7.4.3 Transfer of biomass

## 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.

### **When plants and algae carry out photosynthesis, what proportion of the light energy that hits them do they capture?**

When plants and algae carry out photosynthesis, they capture about 1% of the sunlight energy that hits them.

### **In a food chain, what proportion of the biomass is passed on from one trophic level to the next?**

In a food chain, about 10% of the biomass is passed on from one trophic level to the next.

**Why is only about 10% of the biomass at one trophic level passed onto the next trophic level?**

There are several reasons why only about 10% of the biomass is passed on from one trophic level to the next. These are:

- There are some parts of organisms that are not eaten.
- Of the parts that are eaten, not all of the material is digested and absorbed. Some is egested as faeces.
- Some material is lost to the environment through biological processes. This includes carbon dioxide and water in respiration and water and urea in urination.