

**INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL
BIOLOGY (9610)**

BL04

Unit 4 Control

Mark scheme

June 2024

Version: 1.0 Final



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MARK SCHEME – INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL BIOLOGY – BL04 – JUNE 2024

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.1	(Totipotent cells that can) differentiate into any type of cell, (including a new organism); (Pluripotent cells that can) differentiate into most types of cell, (but not a new organism);	2	1 & 2. For differentiate accept produce/develop/specialise/divide 2. Allow many types

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.2	1. Heart damage (following heart attack); 2. Diabetes;	2	Allow any valid disorder eg muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's, MS, stroke, Alzheimer's, spinal/nerve damage/paralysis, leukaemia, burns, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, macular degeneration, any named recessive inherited disorder

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.3	1. No embryos are destroyed OR embryos cannot give consent; 2. No/less risk of rejection/immune response (as cells derived from the patient); 3. Easier to get/unlimited supply;	2 max	Ignore ethical/moral/religious issues unless qualified Ignore reference to cost Ignore 'easier' unqualified 2. Allow no need for immunosuppressants

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
01.4	1. Drug testing/trials; 2. Disease modelling/personalised medicine; 3. (To investigate) organ function;	2 max	1. Allow testing of vaccines 2. Ignore treatment of cancer but allow cancer research Ignore reference to organ transplants Ignore reference to medical research

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.1	1. Each restriction enzyme (cuts DNA) at a specific base sequence; 2. These specific base sequences are found at different distances (from the gene);	2	1. Allow restriction sites/recognition sequence for 'specific base sequence'

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.2	1. Recombination efficiency increases up to 1kb; 2. Then levels off;	2	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
02.3	No overlap of error bars up to 1kb so difference is significant; OR Overlap of error bars between 1 – 4kb so difference is not significant;	1	Allow points between recombination efficiency instead of flanking region size Ignore results/data are significant/not significant For significant / not significant, allow reference to chance eg for significant allow difference is not due to chance

MARK SCHEME – INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL BIOLOGY – BL04 – JUNE 2024

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.1	1. (ATPase) line to myosin; 2. (Tropomyosin) line to actin;	2	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.2	Answer in range 21.5 – 26.0 (mm);;;	3	Two marks for: Number of sarcomeres 10,000 – 12,069 Difference in sarcomere length = 1.05 μm Correct figures for contracted fibre length but incorrect order of magnitude Answer correctly derived from an incorrect measurement One mark for relaxed sarcomere length = 2.9 – 3.5 μm

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
03.3	1. Myosin now present (between the actin filaments); 2. Actin filaments are moved over/along/between the myosin filaments (when contracting);	2	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
<p>03.4</p>	<p>1. (ATPase) hydrolyses ATP to release energy; 2. Energy/ATP used to form actinomyosin bridges; 3. Tropomyosin blocks the binding sites on actin in B; OR Tropomyosin not blocking the binding sites on actin in C; 4. Calcium ions (bind to and) cause tropomyosin to move; 5. (B) less/no actinomyosin bridges form so low(est) ATPase activity; OR (C) actinomyosin bridges form so high(est) ATPase activity; 6. Calcium ions activate/increase activity of ATPase;</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>1. Allow breakdown for hydrolyses 1. Do not allow energy is produced 2. Accept other uses of energy/ATP in contraction eg pivoting of myosin heads 3. Do not allow if reference to active site on actin 4 & 6. Allow Ca²⁺ for calcium ions 5. For actinomyosin bridges allow myosin head attaches to (binding sites) on actin</p>

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
04.1	<p>1. Less sodium ion channels have opened in F</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Fewer sodium ions have entered (the axon) in F;</p> <p>2. (Idea of) threshold value not met;</p>	2	<p>Accept converse</p> <p>1. Do not allow no sodium ion channels have opened</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
04.2	<p>1. (Myelinated neurone) depolarisation/ion movement can only occur at the nodes</p> <p>OR</p> <p>(Myelinated neurone) myelin insulates (the axon)/prevents ion movement (except for at the nodes);</p> <p>2. (Myelinated neurone) saltatory conduction can occur</p> <p>OR</p> <p>(Non-myelinated) each section of the neurone must depolarise/(wave of) depolarisation has to pass along the whole length of the neurone;</p>	2	<p>1. Allow action potential for depolarisation</p> <p>2. Accept descriptions for saltatory conduction eg impulse can jump from node to node</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
04.3	0.1/0.10/0.103 (μm);;	3	<p>One mark for diameter (D) J = 0.65 and K = 0.85</p> <p>OR</p> <p>For evidence of dividing by 2 (for myelin thickness)</p> <p>Two marks for 0.2/0.21 or 0.25 and 0.45</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
04.4	1. (For each range of axon diameter) mutation causes a (slightly) higher g-ratio; 2. Mutation causes a decrease in myelin thickness; 3. (Figure 8 shows that) as myelin thickness decreases so does the speed of conductance;	3	

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
05.4	1. cAMP is made from ATP; 2. Mitochondria produce ATP;	2	1. Allow ATP is converted to cAMP

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
05.5	1. Oestrogen is lipid soluble / non-polar / hydrophobic; 2. Able to pass through the CSM;	2	

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
06.1	1. Genetic code is universal; 2. Bacteria have the same protein synthesising mechanisms/have ribosomes;	2	1. Allow descriptions of universal

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
06.2	1. Stage 2: cDNA made (using mRNA as a template); 2. Enzyme: Reverse transcriptase; 3. Stage 3: Double stranded DNA made; 4. Enzyme: DNA polymerase;	4	

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
06.3	1. (Restriction enzyme cuts DNA) at a specific base sequence; 2. Leaving complementary sticky ends;	2	1. Allow restriction site/recognition sequence for 'specific base sequence'

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
06.4	2, 4, 5, 8, 9; 6, 7, 10;	2	

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
06.5	Time consuming / involves replica plating / errors in replica plating / introduces antibiotic resistance to bacteria;	1	Allow colonies containing the human gene are killed (by tetracycline)

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
06.6	Fluorescent/enzyme (gene marker);	1	Ignore references to radioactive markers Allow GFP / herbicide resistance gene

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
07.1	<p>1. Action potential causes (calcium ion channels to open and) calcium ions to enter (the presynaptic knob);</p> <p>2. (Calcium ions cause the) vesicles to fuse with the (presynaptic) membrane and release serotonin/neurotransmitter;</p>	2	<p>1. Allow Ca²⁺ for calcium ions</p> <p>2. Allow serotonin released through exocytosis</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
07.2	<p>1. Prevents neurotransmitter/serotonin from (continued) binding to receptors;</p> <p>2. Prevents continued stimulation/action potentials/depolarisation (in the post-synaptic neurone);</p>	2	<p>1 & 2. Allow converse answers based on what would happen if it were not reabsorbed</p> <p>2. Accept prevents sodium ion channels from staying open</p> <p>If no other mark awarded allow (for one mark) idea that serotonin can be packaged back into vesicles before further stimulation of the presynaptic neurone</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
07.3	<p>1. Shows the effect of saline (on its own does not affect serotonin levels)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>To provide a baseline level (of serotonin without MDMA)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>To act a control group to make comparisons against;</p> <p>2. To show that any changes in the results (of the rats in groups R–T) are due to MDMA;</p>	2	<p>1. Group Q as a control group - needs further qualification</p>

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Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
07.4	<p>1. (All concentrations of) MDMA caused a significant <u>increase</u> in serotonin concentration (when compared to the control group);</p> <p>2. No significant difference/increase in the serotonin concentration between groups R – T;</p>	2	<p>1. Instead of significant increase allow <u>increase</u> is not due to chance</p> <p>2. Instead of no significant difference allow difference could be due to chance</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
07.5	<p>1. MDMA blocks (the attachment of serotonin to) the SERT (carrier proteins);</p> <p>2. Less/no serotonin reabsorbed (back into presynaptic knob) so concentration (in the synaptic cleft) increases;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>3. MDMA blocks the (attachment of serotonin to) receptors (on the post-synaptic membrane);</p> <p>4. Less/no serotonin attached to receptors so concentration of serotonin (in the synaptic cleft) increases;</p>	2 max	<p>Mark in pairs</p> <p>2. For 'less/no' allow reabsorbed more slowly</p> <p>1 & 3. Instead of attachment - allow idea that MDMA causes damage e.g. to SERT carrier proteins / receptors</p>

Question	Marking guidance	Mark	Comments
<p>07.6</p>	<p>Support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MDMA causes a (significant) decrease in the number of intact neurones (as SD does not overlap between groups); 2. As the serotonin concentration increases, the number of intact neurones decreases; 3. Correlation coefficient is -0.907 so strong negative correlation; 4. <u>Correlation</u> (between the number of intact neurones and serotonin concentration) is <u>significant</u> as $P < 0.001/0.05$; <p>Against:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Only used rats so different effects could be seen in other species/organisms; 6. Only used adult/male rats so different effects could be seen rats of different ages / female rats; 7. Only used 24 rats/small sample size so not representative; 8. Only investigated for 7 days so long-term effects not known; 9. Only one investigation so not shown to be repeatable; 10. Investigation shows a correlation but does not provide evidence that (high concentration of) serotonin causes damage to neurones; 	<p>5 max</p>	<p>For full marks must have points in support and against</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ignore negative correlation unqualified 4. Allow less than 0.1% or less than 5%