AQA GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy | 8464

SPECIFICATION POINT 4.6.3.1

Evidence for evolution

Past-paper questions

Tier	**Higher**
Question groups	**5**
Available paper years	**2020–2025**

Using this booklet

1. Answer the questions in order and show your working.
2. Original question numbers and marks are retained.
3. Print at actual size (100%) for measuring questions.
4. Use the companion answer booklet to check your work.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Whole questions are retained for context, so some parts assess other specification points. Current and legacy sources are labelled. Continue on extra paper if needed.

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 01

November 2020 | 8464/B/2H | Original Q6

0 6 Scientists believe that the first life on Earth was primitive anaerobic bacteria which first appeared billions of years ago.

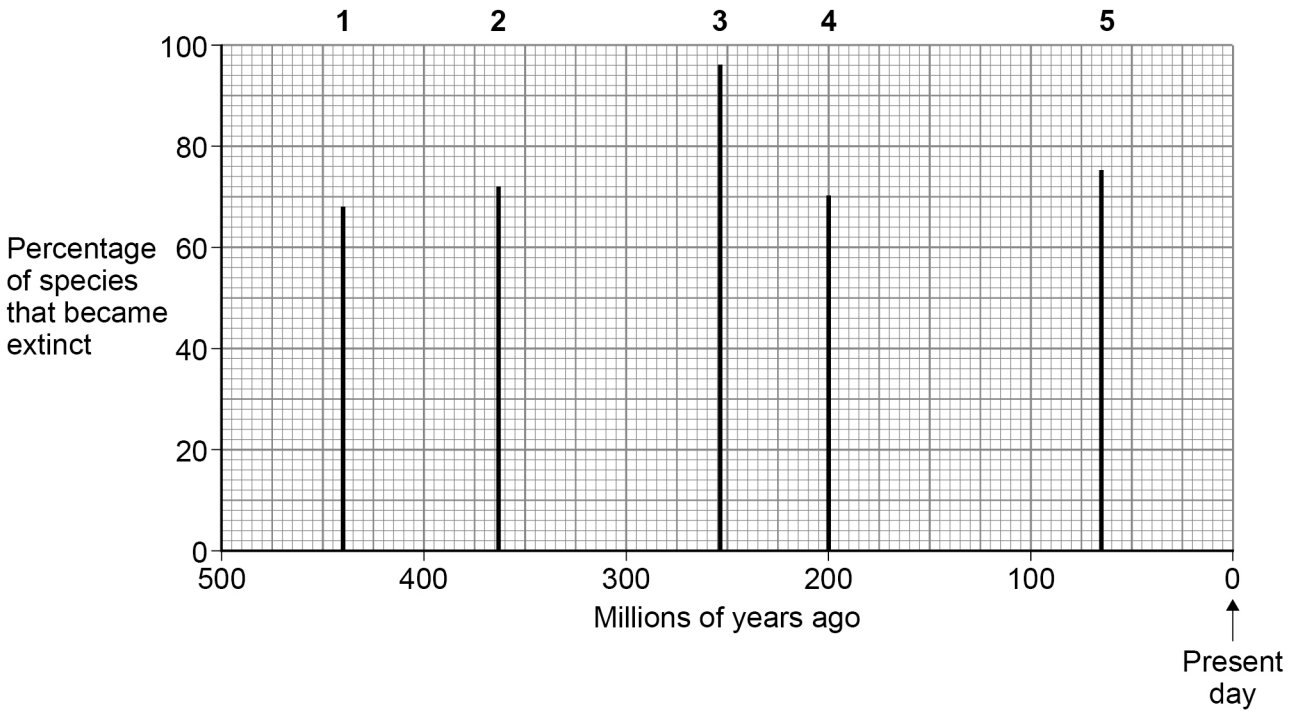
0 6 . 1 Which domain of the three-domain classification system do these primitive anaerobic bacteria belong to?

[1 mark]

Scientists have identified five periods of mass extinction since the fossil record began.

Figure 6 shows the timeline of the five mass extinction events.

Figure 6



0 6 . 2 Ammonites were organisms that first appeared in the oceans 415 million years ago.

Ammonites disappeared in the 5th mass extinction.

Draw a horizontal line on **Figure 6** to show the time period that ammonites existed on Earth.

Label the line 'ammonites'.

[1 mark]

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 01 · continued

0 6 . 3 Another type of organism that existed in the oceans was called trilobites.

Trilobites existed from 544 million years ago until 278 million years ago.

How many more years did ammonites exist than trilobites?

[2 marks]

_____ years

0 6 . 4 There was an increase in the percentage of species which became extinct in the third mass extinction compared to the first mass extinction.

Calculate the percentage increase.

[3 marks]

Percentage increase = _____ %

7

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 02

November 2021 | 8464/B/2H | Original Q3

0 3 A fossil was found in rocks. The rocks were formed from mud.

The fossil is of the fungus *Ourasphaira giraldae.*

0 3 . 1 What is the genus of the fungus?

[1 mark]

0 3 . 2 Why was the mud important during the formation of the fossil?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

The fungus completely decayed in the mud. ☐

The mud stopped oxygen reaching the fungus. ☐

There was water in the mud around the fungus. ☐

Question 3 continues on the next page

Question 02 · continued

The estimated age of the fossil is in the range from 8.9×10^8 years old to 1.1×10^9 years old.

0 3 . 3 Calculate the size of the range of the estimated age of the fossil.

[1 mark]

Size of range = _____ years

0 3 . 4 Humans did **not** exist when the fungus was alive.

Suggest **one** other reason why an accurate estimation of when this species of fungus existed is not known.

[1 mark]

Carl Woese developed the three-domain system of classification.

0 3 . 5 Fungi are **not** in the domain Archaea.

Which domain are fungi classified in?

[1 mark]

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 02 · continued

0 3 . 6 Which **two** characteristics are features of organisms in the domain Archaea?

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

- Can only survive in light ☐
- Can survive in extreme environments ☐
- Cells contain chloroplasts ☐
- Cells do not have a cell wall ☐
- Cytoplasm contains DNA ☐

0 3 . 7 Carl Linnaeus lived in the 1700s.

Carl Linnaeus classified living things into groups depending on their appearance.

Give **three** types of evidence that are used **now** to classify living things.

Do **not** refer to appearance in your answer.

[3 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

3 _____

_____

10

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 03

June 2023 | 8464/B/1H | Original Q7

0 7 Antibiotics are drugs used to treat bacterial infections.

Mutations in bacteria produce new strains.

Some strains of bacteria are resistant to antibiotics.

0 7 . 1 Where do mutations happen in a **bacterial** cell?

[1 mark]

A scientist investigated which antibiotics (**A**, **B**, **C**, **D** and **E**) killed *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) bacteria.

This is the method used.

1. Grow *S. aureus* bacteria in a Petri dish.

2. Cut five small discs of paper.

3. Soak each paper disc in a different antibiotic solution.

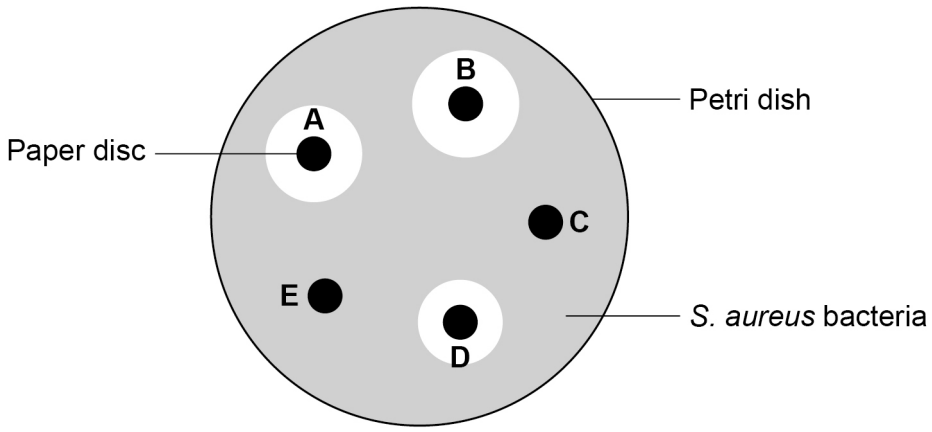
4. Put the five paper discs into the Petri dish.

5. Keep the Petri dish at 37 °C for 24 hours.

Figure 9 shows the results.

A clear area around a disc shows where the bacteria have been killed.

Figure 9



4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 03 · continued

0 7 . 2 The scientist concluded:

'*S. aureus* is resistant to antibiotics **C** and **E**'.

Explain the evidence for this conclusion.

Use **Figure 9**.

[2 marks]

0 7 . 3 The scientist later discovered that *S. aureus* is **not** resistant to antibiotic **E**.

Suggest how the method was developed and showed that *S. aureus* is **not** resistant to antibiotic **E**.

[2 marks]

Question 7 continues on the next page

Question 03 · continued

Broken bones are sometimes repaired using a metal implant.

The area around an implant can become infected with *S. aureus* bacteria.
The infection is usually treated with a long-term course of antibiotics.

Long-term use of antibiotics has led to the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria.
Research is being carried out into alternative treatments.

Stem cells from bone marrow and from fat tissue have antimicrobial properties.

A scientist investigated the effect of four treatments on the area of infection around metal implants. Each treatment was injected into the area around the implant.

The four treatments were:

- unreactive solution
- antibiotic solution
- stem cells from fat tissue
- stem cells from fat tissue containing antibiotic.

Each treatment was tested on 5 patients where an infection had developed around their metal implant.

After 7 days of treatment, the scientist calculated the ratio:

area of infection **:** total tissue area

0 7 . 4 What was the independent variable in this investigation?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- The ratio of area of infection **:** total tissue area ☐
- The treatment injected around the implant ☐
- The type of antibiotic used ☐
- The type of bacterial infection ☐

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 03 · continued

0 7 . 5 Suggest **one** advantage of using stem cells from fat tissue, rather than using stem cells from bone marrow.

[1 mark]

0 7 . 6 Stem cells containing antibiotic were produced by growing the cells for 24 hours in a solution containing the antibiotic.

How did the antibiotic enter the stem cells from the solution?

Give a reason for your answer.

[2 marks]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

By active transport ☐

By diffusion ☐

By osmosis ☐

By translocation ☐

Reason

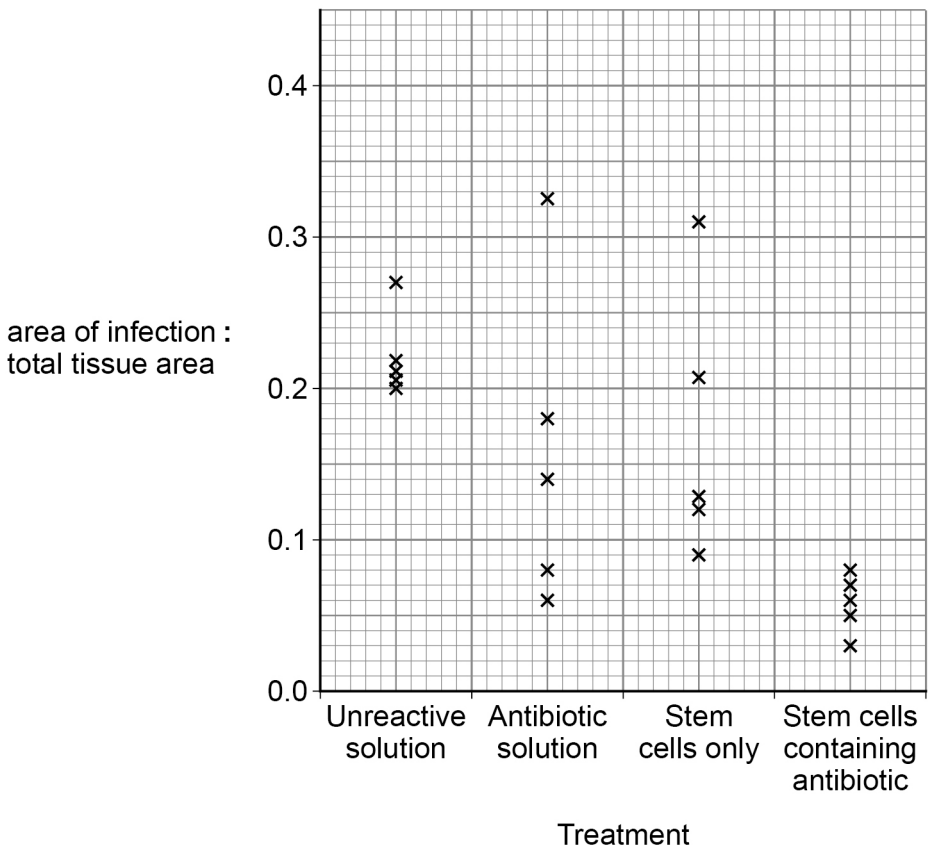
Question 7 continues on the next page

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 03 · continued

Figure 10 shows the results.

Figure 10



0 7 . 7 What is the range of results for the treatment with stem cells only?

[1 mark]

From _____ to _____

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 03 · continued

0 7 . 8 A student looked at the results and concluded:

‘Injections of stem cells containing antibiotic should be used to treat **all** implant-related infections’.

Evaluate the student’s conclusion.

Use **Figure 10**.

[4 marks]

14

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 04

0 2 It is estimated that 99.9% of all species that have ever existed are now extinct.

0 2 . 1 Why is the percentage of species that are extinct only an estimate?

[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

All individuals of one species have the same genes. ☐

Extinction is always caused by humans. ☐

Humans have not found evidence of every species. ☐

0 2 . 2 What evidence is used to study species that have become extinct?

[1 mark]

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 04 · continued

0 2 . 3 A bacterium called *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) can infect the human digestive system.

C. difficile can multiply and produce toxins. The toxins cause diarrhoea.

Doctors are concerned that new strains of *C. difficile* may evolve. Antibiotics may **not** be able to kill these new strains.

Explain how the evolution of antibiotic resistant *C. difficile* can be slowed down.

[6 marks]

8

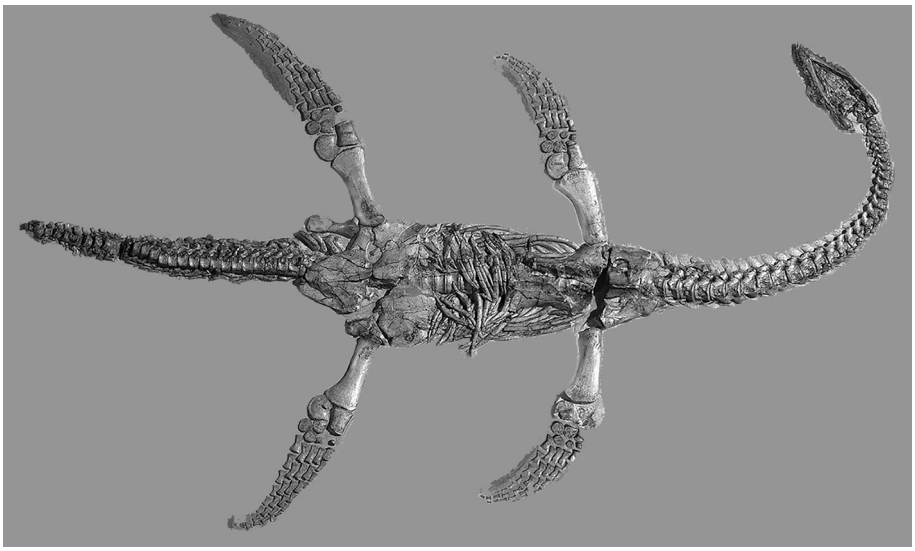
4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 05

0 5 Plesiosaurs are extinct reptiles that lived in the ocean.

Figure 5 shows a fossil of a plesiosaur.

Figure 5



0 5 . 1 Plesiosaurs may have moved rapidly upwards to hold their heads above the water surface to search for prey.

What **type** of adaptation was the rapid upwards movement?

[1 mark]

_____

0 5 . 2 Give **two biotic** factors that may have caused the extinction of plesiosaurs.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 05 · continued

0 5 . 3 Describe how the plesiosaur fossil in **Figure 5** could have been formed.

[3 marks]

0 5 . 4 Scientists use fossils to study evolution.

Suggest **two** reasons why scientists **cannot** study the mutations involved in the evolution of plesiosaurs.

Do **not** refer to extinction in your answer.

[2 marks]

1

2

4.6.3.1 Evidence for evolution

Question 05 · continued

0 5 . 5 **Table 1** shows part of the classification of a plesiosaur.

Complete **Table 1**.

[2 marks]

Table 1

Classification group	Name
Domain	
Kingdom	Animalia
	Chordata
Class	Reptilia
	Plesiosaur
	Cryptoclididae
Genus	Cryptoclidus
Species	eurymerus

0 5 . 6 Give the binomial name of the plesiosaur in **Table 1**.

[1 mark]

_____

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