EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

Boost your performance and confidence with these topic-based exam questions

Practice questions created by actual examiners and assessment experts

Detailed mark scheme

Suitable for all boards

Designed to test your ability and thoroughly prepare you

Time allowed

44 Minutes

Score /37

Percentage %

Biology

Topic Questions

AQA
AS & A LEVEL

3.7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

1 The Hardy-Weinberg equation is

$$p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$$

The Hardy-Weinberg equation can be used to estimate the frequency of a recessive allele in a population. Haemochromatosis is a condition caused by a recessive allele.
In one country, 1 in every 400 people was found to have haemochromatosis.

Describe how you would use the Hardy-Weinberg equation to calculate the frequency of people who are healthy but carriers (heterozygotes) of the allele for haemochromatosis.

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(Extra space) .....

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(Total 3 marks)

2 Malaria is a disease that destroys red blood cells. Scientists investigated whether certain red blood cell phenotypes were associated with developing severe or mild malaria. They compared the red blood cell phenotypes of hospital patients suffering from severe malaria with the red blood cell phenotypes of patients suffering from mild malaria. The results are shown in the table.

Red blood cell phenotype	Ratio of patients with severe malaria : patients with mild malaria
Sickle cell trait	0.48 : 1
Blood group A	2.45 : 1
Blood group O	0.96 : 1

(a) Explain the advantage of presenting the results as a ratio.

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(2)

(b) What do these data show about the effect of red blood cell phenotypes on the chance of developing severe malaria rather than mild malaria?

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(Extra space) .....

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(2)

(c) The allele for normal haemoglobin in red blood cells is **Hb^A**. In some parts of Africa where malaria occurs there is a high frequency in the population of the allele **Hb^c**. Individuals possessing the **Hb^c** allele have a lower chance of developing severe malaria. Severe malaria causes a large number of deaths in Africa.

Explain the high frequency of the **Hb^c** allele in areas where malaria occurs.

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(Extra space) .....

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(3)
(Total 7 marks)

Q5. The Hardy-Weinberg equation is

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(Extra space) .....

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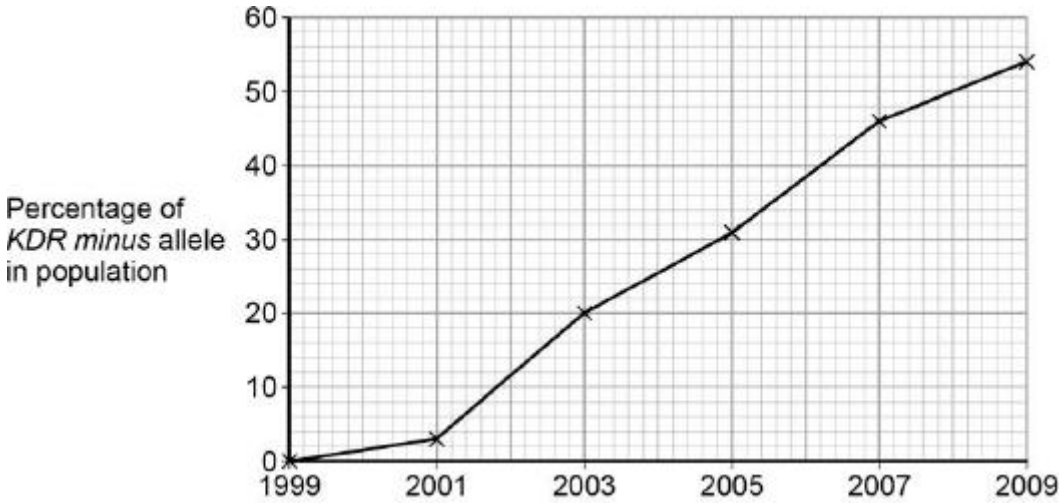
(Total 3 marks)

3 Malaria is a disease that is spread by insects called mosquitoes. In Africa, DDT is a pesticide used to kill mosquitoes, to try to control the spread of malaria.

Mosquitoes have a gene called *KDR*. Today, some mosquitoes have an allele of this gene, *KDR minus*, that gives them resistance to DDT. The other allele, *KDR plus*, does not give resistance.

Scientists investigated the frequency of the *KDR minus* allele in a population of mosquitoes in an African country over a period of 10 years.

The figure below shows the scientists' results.



(a) Use the Hardy–Weinberg equation to calculate the frequency of mosquitoes heterozygous for the *KDR* gene in this population in 2003.

Show your working.

Frequency of heterozygotes in population in 2003 .....

(2)

(b) Suggest an explanation for the results in the figure above.

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(Extra space) .....

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The *KDR plus* allele codes for the sodium ion channels found in neurones.

(4)

(c) When DDT binds to a sodium ion channel, the channel remains open all the time. Use this information to suggest how DDT kills insects.

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(2)

(d) Suggest how the *KDR minus* allele gives resistance to DDT.

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(2)

(Total 10 marks)

4 In birds, **males are XX** and **females are XY**.

(a) Use this information to explain why recessive, sex-linked characteristics are more common in female birds than in male birds.

(1)

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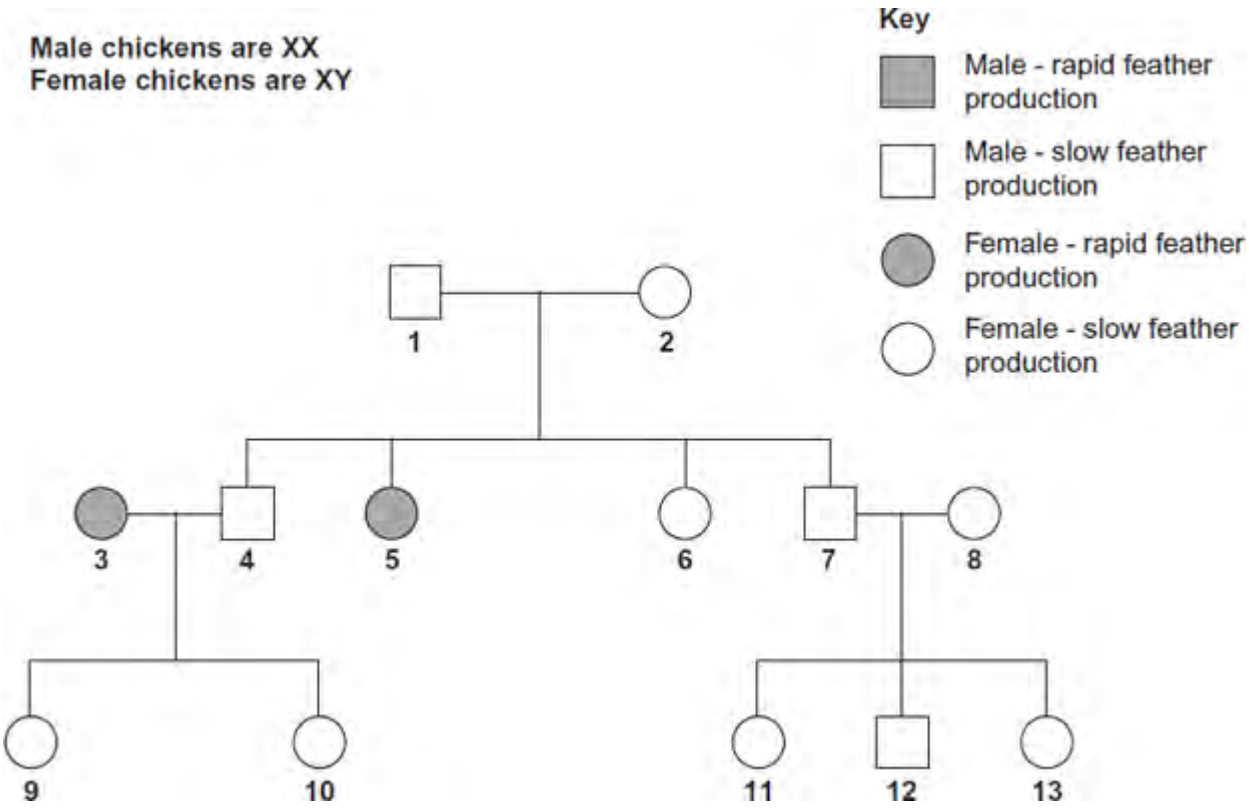
(b) In chickens, a gene on the X chromosome controls the rate of feather production. The allele for slow feather production, **F**, is dominant to the allele for rapid feather production, **f**. The following figure shows the results produced from crosses carried out by a farmer.



(i) Explain **one** piece of evidence from the figure which shows that the allele for rapid feather production is recessive.

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(2)

(ii) Give all the possible genotypes of the following chickens from the figure.

Chicken 5 .....

Chicken 7 .....

(2)

(iii) A cross between two chickens produced four offspring. Two of these were males with rapid feather production and two were females with slow feather production. Give the genotypes of the parents.

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(1)

(c) Feather colour in one species of chicken is controlled by a pair of codominant alleles which are **not** sex-linked. The allele $\mathbf{C^B}$ codes for black feathers and the allele $\mathbf{C^W}$ codes for white feathers. Heterozygous chickens are blue-feathered.

On a farm, 4% of the chickens were black-feathered. Use the Hardy-Weinberg equation to calculate the percentage of this population that you would expect to be blue-feathered. Show your working.

Answer ..... %

(3)

(Total 9 marks)

5 In cats, males are XY and females are XX. A gene on the X chromosome controls fur colour in cats. The allele **G** codes for ginger fur and the allele **B** codes for black fur. These alleles are codominant. Heterozygous females have ginger and black patches of fur and their phenotype is described as tortoiseshell.

(a) Explain what is meant by **codominant** alleles.

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(1)

(b) Male cats with a tortoiseshell phenotype do **not** usually occur. Explain why.

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(1)

(c) A tortoiseshell female was crossed with a black male. Use a genetic diagram to show all the possible genotypes and the ratio of phenotypes expected in the offspring of this cross.

Use $\mathbf{X^G}$ to indicate the allele **G** on an X chromosome.
Use $\mathbf{X^B}$ to indicate the allele **B** on an X chromosome.

Genotypes of offspring .....

Phenotypes of offspring .....

Ratio of phenotypes .....

(3)

(d) Polydactyly in cats is an inherited condition in which cats have extra toes. The allele for polydactyly is dominant.

(i) In a population, 19% of cats had extra toes. Use the Hardy-Weinberg equation to calculate the frequency of the recessive allele for this gene in this population.
Show your working.

Answer = ...

(2)

(ii) Some cat breeders select for polydactyly. Describe how this would affect the frequencies of the homozygous genotypes for this gene in their breeding populations over time.

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(1)
(Total 8 marks)