

20.2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity: The number and variety of organisms found within a specified ecosystem or biome.

Species: A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding. The principal natural taxonomic unit.

Habitat: The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Levels of biodiversity

- **Habitat (ecosystem) diversity**
 - The variety of habitats/ecosystems present in a biogeome.
- **Species diversity**
 - The effective number of different species that are represented in a collection of individuals (a dataset). Species diversity consists of two components: species richness and species evenness.
- **Genetic diversity**
 - The total number of genetic characteristics in the genetic makeup of a species. It serves as a more fine-grained indicator for adapt to changing environments.

Sampling

- **Importance of sampling**
 - Human activities affect the environment, and we must study these effects to understand the impact we have. Data are important parts of planning processes and are used to estimate the environmental effects of a planned development.
- **Measuring Biodiversity**
 - To measure the biodiversity of a habitat, all the individuals of all of the species must be counted. This is impractical, so instead, the habitat is randomly sampled: random portions of the habitat are selected and studied in detail. An estimation of the numbers in the whole habitat is then calculated. These methods must be standardized.
 - **Sampling Plots**
 - **Steps to randomly select areas:**
 - (1) Taking readings at regular distances across the habitat
 - (2) Using random numbers for plot coordinates within the habitat
 - (3) Selecting coordinates from a map and then using a GPS to find the position inside the habitat
 - **Method 2: Random Quadrats**

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OCR AS Biology Unit F212: Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health Richard Fosbery, 2009-01-30 Student Unit Guides are perfect for revision Each guide is written by an examiner and explains the unit requirements summarises the relevant unit content and includes a series of specimen questions and answers There are three sections to each guide Introduction includes advice on how to use the guide an explanation of the skills being tested by the assessment objectives an outline of the unit or module and depending on the unit suggestions for how to revise effectively and prepare for the examination questions Content Guidance provides an examiner s overview of the module s key terms and concepts and identifies opportunities to exhibit the skills required by the unit It is designed to help students to structure their revision and make them aware of the concepts they need to understand the exam and how they might analyse and evaluate topics Question and Answers sample questions and with graded answers which have been carefully written to reflect the style of the unit All responses are accompanied by commentaries which highlight their respective strengths and weaknesses giving students an insight into the mind of the examiner *OCR AS Biology Student Unit Guide New Edition: Unit F212 Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health* Richard Fosbery, 2012-07-20 Written by a senior examiner Richard Fosbery this OCR AS Biology Student Unit Guide is the essential study companion for Unit F212 Molecules Biodiversity Food and Health This full colour book includes all you need to know to prepare for your unit exam clear guidance on the content of the unit with topic summaries knowledge check questions and a quick reference index examiner s advice throughout so you will know what to expect in the exam and will be able to demonstrate the skills required exam style questions with graded student responses so you can see clearly what is required to get a better grade **Revise AS Biology for OCR** Richard Fosbery, 2005-09-20 The books in this series present revision in a straightforward and user friendly way The authors give tips on common pitfalls and each guide contains help with the best ways to tackle different types of exam questions My Revision Notes: OCR A Level Biology A Frank Sochacki, 2017-01-16 Exam Board OCR Level A Level Subject Biology First Teaching September 2015 First Exam Summer 2016 With My Revision Notes OCR A Level Biology A you can Manage your own revision with step by step support from experienced teacher and examiner Frank Sochacki Apply biological terms accurately with the help of definitions and key words Plan and pace your revision with the revision planner Test understanding with questions throughout the book Get exam ready with last minute quick quizzes available on the Hodder Education website *Ocr Biology 2* Richard Allan, 2016 **OCR Biology 2: A-Level** Tracey Greenwood, Kent Pryor, Lissa Bainbridge-Smith, Richard Allan, 2015-11-01 OCR A Level Year 2 Biology A Student Guide: Module 6 Richard Fosbery, 2017-01-16 Exam Board OCR Level A level Subject Biology First Teaching September 2015 First Exam June 2017 Reinforce students understanding throughout their course with clear topic summaries and sample questions and answers to help your students target higher grades Written by experienced examiner Richard Fosbery our Student Guides are divided into two key sections content guidance and sample

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