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Level 3 Biology, 2015

91603 Demonstrate understanding of the responses of plants and animals to their external environment

2.00 p.m. Monday 23 November 2015
Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of the responses of plants and animals to their external environment.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of the responses of plants and animals to their external environment.	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the responses of plants and animals to their external environment.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should attempt ALL the questions in this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet and clearly number the question.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

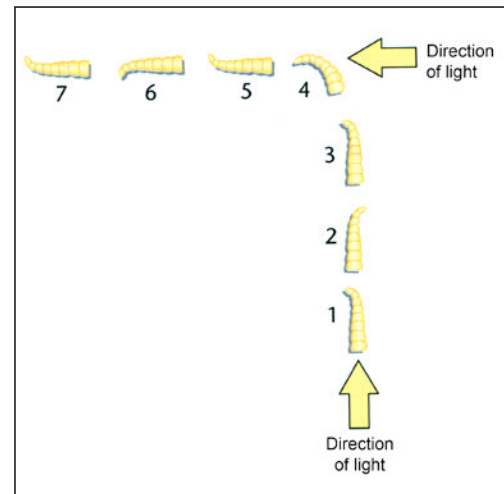
TOTAL

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QUESTION ONE

Some animals display innate behaviours.

As green bottle fly maggots (*Phaenicia sericata*) crawl, they turn their heads, comparing the light intensity from each side. They always turn towards the darker side, taking them away from light.



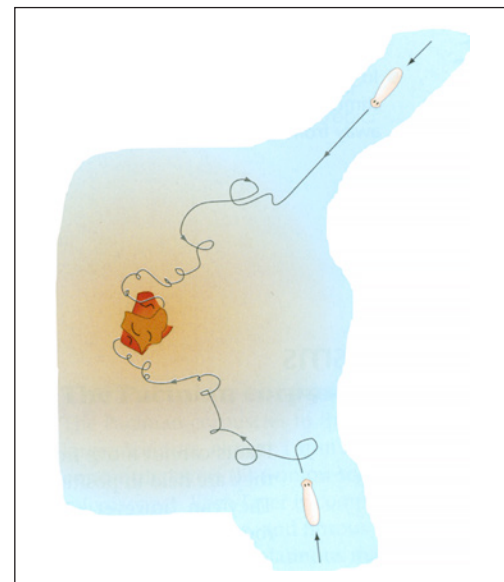
Maggot response to light stimulus.

A piece of meat in water causes a chemical gradient. Flatworms, such as *Planaria torva*, move along a straight path until they detect an increase in chemical concentration. The flatworms increase their rate of turning in the area until they touch the meat and start feeding.

Compare these responses, the adaptive advantages gained for the animals that display them, and how these animals come to have them.

In your answer:

- identify the full term given for both responses, and define these terms
- using the information above, justify the types of orientation you have described, and explain how they operate in both the maggots and the flatworm
- compare the adaptive advantages these animals gain by displaying these behaviours.



Flatworm response to chemical stimulus.

**There is more space for your
answer to this question on the
following page.**

QUESTION TWO

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Cape Kidnappers on the coast of Hawke's Bay is an exposed headland, which hosts the largest mainland gannet (*Morus serrator*) colony in New Zealand, with around 6500 breeding pairs arriving in early August each year. The birds remain until the young fledglings are mature enough to leave, and then return to Australia in March the following year.

Gannets usually have the same mate over many breeding seasons and re-establish their relationship at the beginning of each breeding season. During the breeding season, the area is densely occupied by the gannets which actively defend their nesting sites.

Females lay a single pale blue egg, the size of a large hen's egg, any time from mid-September till mid-December. It is laid in a nest prepared from dried seaweed, cemented with guano (bird droppings), and incubated by each parent in turn. After 43 days, a blind, naked chick hatches, and is fed and cared for by both parents.



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https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e9/Gannet_colony_cape_kidnappers.jpg

Evaluate the behaviours the gannet displays, using the given information above.

In your answer:

- identify and describe THREE behaviours displayed by the gannets
- explain the costs and benefits of the behaviours you have identified
- discuss how the combination of behaviours provides adaptive value to the gannets.

**There is more space for your
answer to this question on the
following page.**

QUESTION THREE

Mutualistic relationships exist between New Zealand's native birds and trees, but introduced mammalian predators can affect this.

Maungatautari in the Waikato is a large area of forest where mammalian predators have been eradicated and a perimeter fence has been built to keep it predator free. The area has been used to study the effect of predator removal on the ability of birds to successfully pollinate species of native plants.

The New Zealand fuchsia, (kōtukutuku) – *Fuchsia excorticata*, was used as an indicator species, and comparisons were made with nearby Pirongia Forest Park, where mammalian predators are present.

Fuchsia excorticata trees have one of two flower types:

- female flowers which need pollination
- hermaphrodites (male and female) which can self-pollinate.

Successful pollination results in formation of fruit.

Some results from the study are summarised below.

Visitation rates of pollinating birds to <i>Fuchsia excorticata</i> flowers	Pollen scores of female and hermaphrodite <i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>
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<p>(Mean seconds of bird activity per 100 flowers per hour)</p> <p>Adapted from Iles J.M. & Kelly D. School of Biological Sciences, Canterbury. Published online 9 April 2014.</p>	<p>A pollen score index of at least 1.5 (dashed line) indicates a good pollination score, based on the relationship between pollen load and formation of fruit.</p> <p>Adapted from Iles J.M. & Kelly D. School of Biological Sciences, Canterbury. Published online 9 April 2014.</p>

Discuss the ecological relationships between the fuchsia trees, the bird species, and the presence or lack of mammals within the two forests, using the information given above to support your discussion.

In your answer:

- define the terms mutualism, predation, and interspecific competition
- explain the importance of pollination for both the fuchsia and the native birds
- use the data to compare, with reasons, the outcomes for *Fuchsia excorticata* and the key native bird species involved at the two sites.

**There is more space for your
answer to this question on the
following page.**

Extra paper if required.
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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