



Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE
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BIOLOGY

5090/31

Paper 3 Practical Test

October/November 2023

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: The materials and apparatus listed in the confidential instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You may use a calculator.
- You should show all your working and use appropriate units.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

For Examiner's Use	
1	
2	
3	
Total	

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

In order to plan the best use of your time, read through all the questions on this paper carefully before starting work.

- 1 Hydrogen peroxide is a toxic waste product found in cells. Catalase, an enzyme present in cells, breaks down hydrogen peroxide to produce water and oxygen.



When potato tissue is added to a solution of hydrogen peroxide in a test-tube the catalase in the potato cells causes bubbles of oxygen to be produced. If some detergent is added to the hydrogen peroxide solution the oxygen bubbles are trapped to produce a layer of bubbles that rises up the test-tube. The height of this layer of bubbles indicates how much catalase activity there has been.

You are going to investigate the activity of the catalase in potato tissue. **As hydrogen peroxide may cause damage to eyes, wear eye protection while you do this investigation.**

You are provided with a piece of potato and three large test-tubes that are labelled **A**, **B** and **C**. Each test-tube contains 5 cm³ of hydrogen peroxide solution.

- Add 1 cm³ of detergent to the hydrogen peroxide solution in test-tubes **A**, **B** and **C**.
 - Mark the height of the liquid in each test-tube using the marker pen.
 - Cut three pieces of potato measuring 10 mm × 10 mm × 10 mm.
 - Add one of these pieces of potato to test-tube **A**. It will sink to the bottom of the hydrogen peroxide solution.
 - Immediately start timing (0 minutes) and observe the piece of potato.
- (a) (i) Bubbles of oxygen will rise to the surface and form a layer at the top of the hydrogen peroxide solution.
- Measure the height of this layer at 2, 4 and 6 minutes from the start and record these measurements in Table 1.1. The height of the layer of bubbles should be measured from the top of the hydrogen peroxide solution to the top of the layer of bubbles as shown in Fig. 1.1.

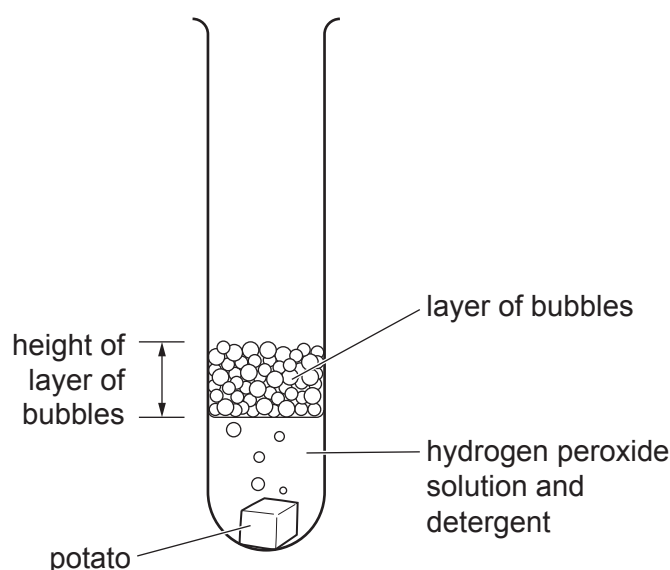


Fig. 1.1

Cut the second piece of potato into four equal parts.

- Add these four parts to test-tube **B**.
- Immediately start timing and observe the pieces of potato.
- Measure the height of the layer of bubbles that forms at the top of the hydrogen peroxide solution at 2, 4 and 6 minutes from the start and record these in Table 1.1.

Cut the third piece of potato into eight equal parts.

- Add these eight parts to test-tube **C**.
- Immediately start timing and observe the pieces of potato.
- Measure the height of the layer of bubbles that forms at the top of the hydrogen peroxide solution at 2, 4 and 6 minutes from the start and record these in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1

.....	height of layer of bubbles / mm		
	test-tube A	test-tube B	test-tube C
2			
4			
6			

[5]

- (ii) Enter the missing heading in Table 1.1.

[1]

Cutting the potato pieces into smaller parts increases the surface area of the potato.

- (iii) Describe the effect of increasing the surface area of the potato and explain what caused this effect.

description

.....

explanation

.....

.....

[3]

(iv) Describe **two** possible sources of error in your investigation and explain why these may affect the results.

1 description

.....

explanation

.....

2 description

.....

explanation

.....

[4]

(b) A student investigated the activity of catalase in potato by measuring the volume of oxygen produced. They added cubes of potato to hydrogen peroxide solution in the apparatus shown in Fig. 1.2.

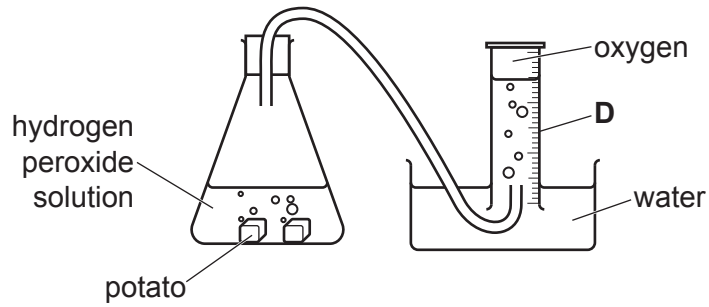


Fig. 1.2

(i) Name the piece of apparatus labelled **D**.

..... [1]

(ii) Design an investigation to determine the effect of **temperature** on the activity of catalase in potato.

Use the apparatus shown in Fig. 1.2.

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..... [6]

[Total: 20]

- 2 Bacteria can be grown on agar jelly in a Petri dish. When they grow and multiply the clear agar jelly becomes cloudy.

Antibiotics can prevent the growth of bacteria. Discs of filter paper dipped in an antibiotic solution can be placed on the surface of the agar. If the area around a disc remains clear, the antibiotic has prevented the growth of the bacteria. The larger the clear area, the more effective the antibiotic is.

A student investigated the effect of distilled water (E) and four different antibiotics (F, G, H and J) on some bacteria using the method described.

They set up three identical Petri dishes and measured the diameter of the clear areas around the filter paper discs after a few days.

There was no clear area around disc E in any of the Petri dishes.

Fig. 2.1 shows the results for Petri dish 3.

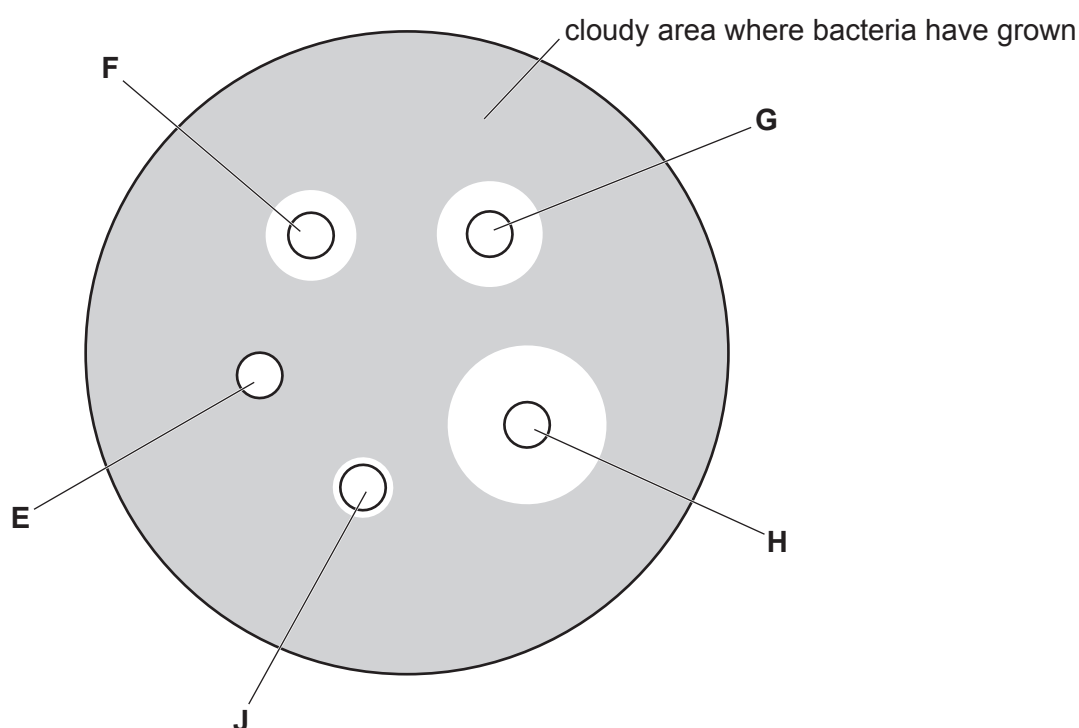


Fig. 2.1

Most of the measurements for the clear areas around the discs with antibiotics F, G, H and J are shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1

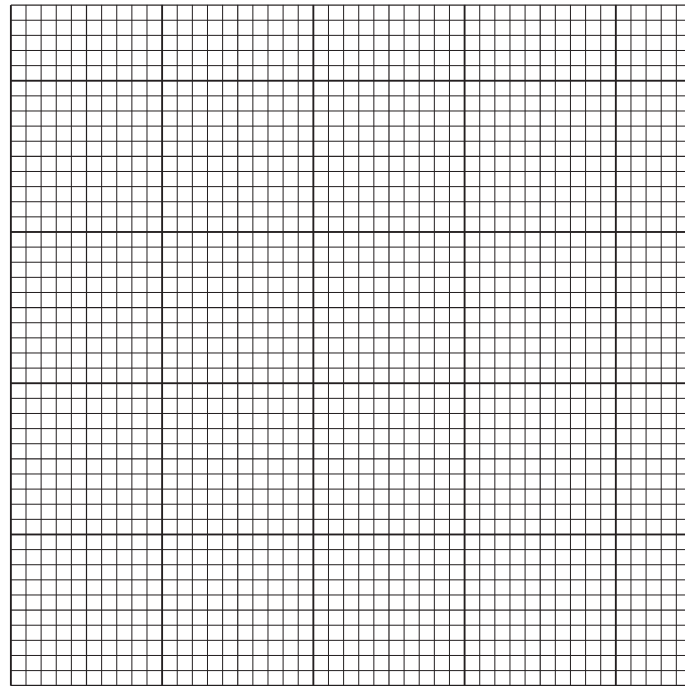
antibiotic	diameter of clear area/mm			
	Petri dish 1	Petri dish 2	Petri dish 3	mean
F	12	6	12	10.0
G	15	14	14	14.3
H	20	21		
J	8	8	8	8.0

- (a) (i) Measure the diameter of the clear area around the disc with antibiotic **H** in Fig. 2.1 and record this in the table. [1]
- (ii) Calculate the mean diameter of the clear areas around the discs with antibiotic **H**. Enter the value in the table rounded to one decimal place.

Space for working.

..... [2]

- (b) (i) Construct a bar chart of the four **mean diameters** in Table 2.1 on the grid.



[4]

- (ii) State which antibiotic was most effective at preventing growth of the bacteria.

..... [1]

- (c) The student realised that one of their results was anomalous.

State which measurement was an anomalous result and suggest what the student could have done about it.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

[Total: 10]

[Turn over

- 3 Fig. 3.1 is a photomicrograph of a section through a kidney showing some kidney tubules.

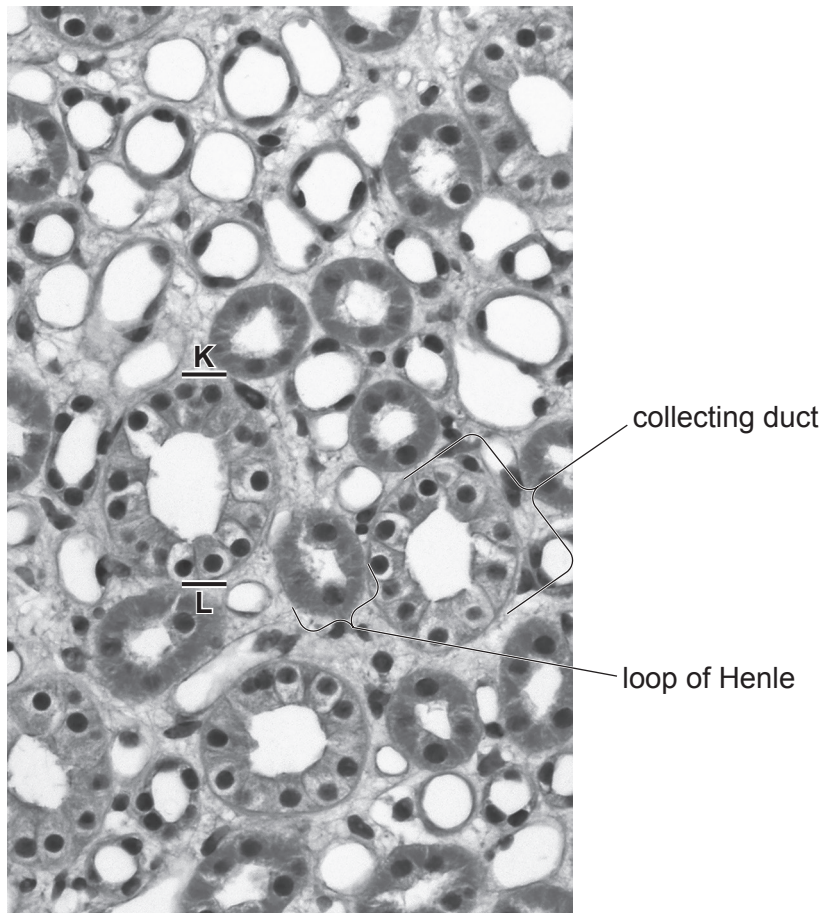


Fig. 3.1

- (a) (i) **K** and **L** indicate the diameter of a collecting duct. Draw a straight line to join **K** and **L** on the collecting duct in the photomicrograph.

Measure the length of the line and record it.

.....

The actual distance between **K** and **L** is 0.06 mm.

Calculate the magnification of the photomicrograph and record it to the nearest whole number.

Space for working.

magnification ×

[3]

(ii) In the space below make a large drawing of the collecting duct and loop of Henle that are labelled in Fig. 3.1. Draw them as they appear in the photomicrograph.

[5]

(b) A person suffering from Type 1 diabetes produces urine containing glucose.

Describe a test that could be carried out to detect whether glucose is present in a sample of urine.

description of test

.....

positive result

[2]

[Total: 10]

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