

Biodiversity

Question Paper 8

Level	International A Level
Subject	Biology
Exam Board	CIE
Topic	Biodiversity, classification and conservation
Sub Topic	Biodiversity
Booklet	Theory
Paper Type	Question Paper 8

Time Allowed : 41 minutes

Score : / 34

Percentage : /100

Grade Boundaries:

A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
>85%	'77.5%	70%	62.5%	57.5%	45%	<45%

- 1 The humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, is one of the world's largest aquatic mammals. It can grow to a length of up to 15 metres and a mass of up to 36 000 kg. A large proportion of the mass of a humpback whale is a very thick layer of fat-filled cells stored under the skin, called blubber.

The humpback whales are seasonal feeders. They feed in polar regions during the summer and then migrate to warmer temperate and tropical waters to mate and have their young during the polar winter.

- (a) One reason that the humpback whale has managed to reach its enormous size is because it is a member of a simple food web. Fig. 3.1 is an example of such a food web.

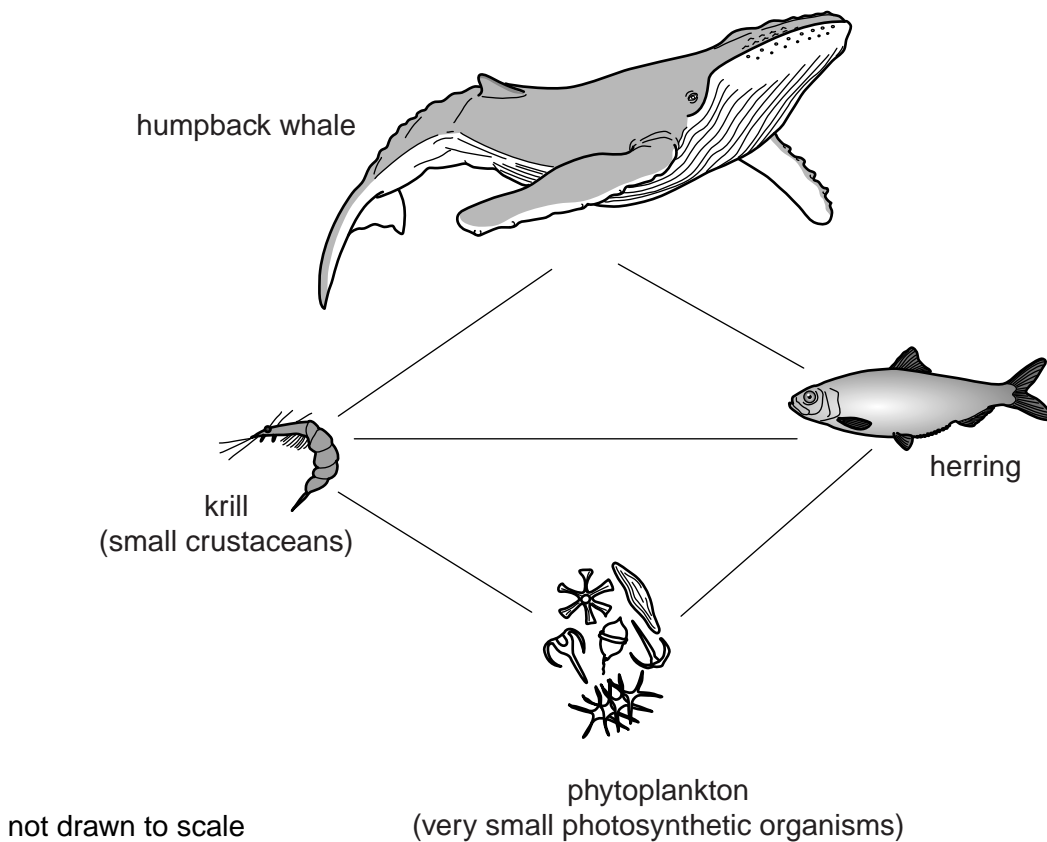


Fig. 3.1

- (i) The humpback whale is a carnivore, feeding on krill and herring. The herring feed on krill.

Add **arrow heads** to the lines drawn on Fig. 3.1 to show the direction of energy flow in the food web. [1]

- (ii) State the trophic level to which the humpback whale belongs.

..... [1]

(iii) In terms of energy transfer, explain how the humpback whale is able to reach such a large size.

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..... [3]

(b) The thickness of blubber in humpback whales decreases during the non-feeding season and increases during the feeding season.

Suggest explanations for this observation.

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(c) Describe the roles of water as an environment for organisms, such as those shown in Fig. 3.1.

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..... [3]

- 2 Corals are simple marine animals and usually exist in colonies of thousands of individuals.

Fig. 7.1 shows a coral colony.



Fig. 7.1

Corals absorb calcium carbonate from the sea to build their skeletons, which help to form large coral reefs. Coral reefs provide a home for about 25% of known fish species and have the highest biodiversity of any marine ecosystem.

- (a) Corals, although they are animals, are sometimes mistaken for members of the plant kingdom.

State **two** ways in which corals differ from plants.

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- (b) Outline what is meant by the term *ecosystem*.

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A study was carried out in 2006 to show how four food crops are pollinated.

Fig. 7.2 shows the results of this study.

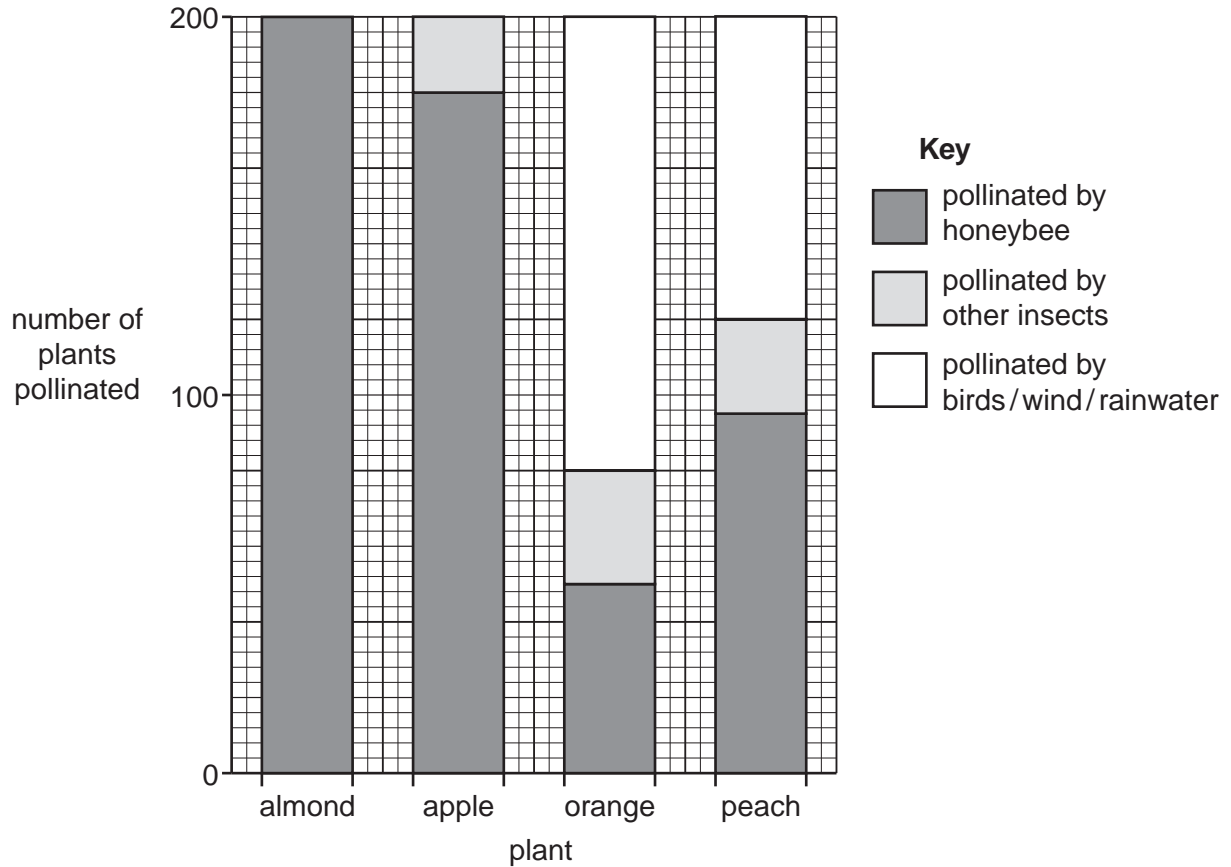


Fig. 7.2

The populations of honeybees in some parts of the world have declined in recent years.

- (i) With reference to Fig. 7.2, **explain** which crop will be most affected **and** which crop will be least affected by the decline in honeybees.

most affected.....

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least affected.....

..... [2]

(b) Explain what is meant by the term *biodiversity*.

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(c) Discuss the benefits of maintaining the biodiversity of a marine ecosystem, such as that in the coastal waters of Canada.

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..... [3]

[Total: 8]