

Personalised Learning Checklists AQA Biology Paper 2

AQA Biology (8461) from 2016 Topic B4.5 Homeostasis and response				
Topic	Student Checklist	R	A	G
Homeostasis 4.5.1	Describe what homeostasis is and why it is important stating specific examples from the human body			
	Describe the common features of all control systems			
4.5.2 The human nervous system	State the function of the nervous system and name its important components			
	Describe how information passes through the nervous system			
	Describe what happens in a reflex action and why reflex actions are important			
	Explain how features of the nervous system are adapted to their function, including a reflex arc (inc all types of neurone and the synapse)			
	<i>Required practical 7: plan and carry out an investigation into the effect of a factor on human reaction time</i>			
4.5.3 Hormonal coordination in humans	Describe the endocrine system, including the location of the pituitary, pancreas, thyroid, adrenal gland, ovary and testis and the role of hormones			
	State that blood glucose concentration is monitored and controlled by the pancreas			
	Describe the body's response when blood glucose concentration is too high			
	Explain what type 1 and type 2 diabetes are and how they are treated			
	HT ONLY: Describe the body's response when blood glucose concentration is too low			
	HT ONLY: Explain how glucagon interacts with insulin to control blood glucose levels in the body			
	Describe how water, ions and urea are lost from the body			
	Describe the consequences of losing or gaining too much water for body cells			
	HT ONLY: Recall that protein digestion leads to excess amino acids inside the body and describe what happens to these			
	Describe how the kidneys produce urine			
	HT ONLY: Describe the effect of ADH on the permeability of the kidney tubules and explain how the water level in the body is controlled by ADH			
	Describe how kidney failure can be treated by organ transplant or dialysis and recall the basic principles of dialysis			
	Describe what happens at puberty in males and females, inc knowledge of reproductive hormones			
	Describe the roles of the hormones involved in the menstrual cycle (FSH, LH and oestrogen)			
	HT ONLY: Explain how the different hormones interact to control the menstrual cycle and ovulation			
	Describe how fertility can be controlled by hormonal and non-hormonal methods of contraception (giving specific examples from the spec)			

	HT ONLY: Explain how hormones are used to treat infertility, inc the steps in IVF			
	HT ONLY: Evaluate the risks and benefits of fertility treatments			
	HT ONLY: Describe the functions of adrenaline and thyroxine in the body, and recall where they are produced			
	HT ONLY: Explain the roles of thyroxine and adrenaline in the body as negative feedback systems			

4.5.4 Plant hormones	<i>Required practical 8: investigate the effect of light or gravity on the growth of newly germinated seedling</i>			
	HT ONLY: Explain the use of plant growth hormones are used in agriculture and horticulture (auxins, ethene and gibberellins)			

AQA Biology (8461) from 2016 Topic B4.6 Inheritance, variation and evolution				
Topic	Student Checklist	R	A	G
4.6.1 Reproduction	Describe features of sexual and asexual reproduction			
	Describe what happens during meiosis and compare to mitosis			
	Describe what happens at fertilisation			
	Describe the structure of DNA and its role in storing genetic information inside the cell			
	Explain the term 'genome' and the importance of the human genome (specific examples from spec only)			
	Describe how characteristics are controlled by one or more genes, including examples			
	Explain important genetic terms: gamete, chromosome, gene, allele, genotype, phenotype, dominant, recessive, homozygous and heterozygous			
	Explain and use Punnet square diagrams, genetic crosses and family trees			
	HT ONLY: Construct Punnet square diagrams to predict the outcomes of a monohybrid cross			
	Describe cystic fibrosis and polydactyly as examples of inherited disorders			
	Evaluate social, economic and ethical issues concerning embryo screening when given appropriate information			
	Describe how the chromosomes are arranged in human body cells, including the function of the sex chromosomes			
Explain how sex is determined and carry out a genetic cross to show sex inheritance				
4.6.2 Variation and evolution	Describe what variation is and how it can be caused within a population			
	Describe mutations and explain their influence on phenotype and changes in a species			
	Explain the theory of evolution by natural selection			

	Describe how new species can be formed			
	Describe what selective breeding is			
	Explain the process of selective breeding, including examples of desired characteristics and risks associated with selective breeding			
	Describe what genetic engineering is, including examples, and how it is carried out			
	Explain some benefits, risks and concerns related to genetic engineering			
	HT ONLY: Explain the process of genetic engineering, to include knowledge of enzymes and vectors			
4.6.3 The development of understanding of genetics and evolution	Describe some sources of evidence for evolution			
	Describe what fossils are, how they are formed and what we can learn from them			
	Explain why there are few traces of the early life forms, and the consequences of this in terms of our understanding of how life began			
	Describe some of the causes of extinction			
	Describe how antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria can arise and spread (inc MRSA)			
	Describe how the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be reduced and controlled, to include the limitations of antibiotic development			

Classification 4.6.4	Describe how organisms are named and classified in the Linnaean system			
	Explain how scientific advances have led to the proposal of new models of classification, inc three domain system			
	Describe and interpret evolutionary trees			

AQA Biology (8461) from 2016 Topic B4.7 Ecology				
Topic	Student Checklist	R	A	G
4.7.1 Adaptations, interdependence and competition	Recall what an ecosystem is			
	Describe which resources animals and plants compete for, and why they do this			
	Explain the terms 'interdependence' and 'stable community'			
	Name some abiotic and biotic factors that affect communities			
	Explain how a change in an abiotic or biotic factor might affect a community			
	Describe structural, behavioural and functional adaptations of organisms			
	Describe what an extremophile is			

4.7.2 Organisation of an ecosystem	Represent the feeding relationships within a community using a food chain and describe these relationships			
	Explain how and why ecologists use quadrats and transects			
	Describe and interpret predator-prey cycles			
	<i>Required practical 9: measure the population size of a common species in a habitat. Use sampling to investigate the effect of one factor on distribution</i>			
4.7.3 Biodiversity and the effect of human interaction on ecosystems	Describe what biodiversity is, why it is important, and how human activities affect it			
	Describe both positive and negative human interactions in an ecosystem and explain their impact on biodiversity			