InstantCert
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Free Biology CLEP Practice Test

10 questions from InstantCert's 880-card Biology study guide

How to use this PDF

Each question is a sentence with one blank and four choices. Pick the best fit, mark it, and keep going. The answer key with explanations starts after question 10, so do all 10 before you look. No timer. On the real exam you get about 47 seconds per question, so if you want a challenge, give yourself 8 minutes for the set.

What your score means

0 to 4 correct

The Biology CLEP is mostly vocabulary, and a score in this range usually means the vocabulary is not there yet. Ten questions is a sample, not a diagnosis. Take Round 2 on the page linked at the end before you decide how much work is ahead of you.

5 to 7 correct

This is where most people land on a first pass. Close enough to the line to be worth studying for, and not close enough to walk in cold. Take Round 2 and see if the number holds.

8 to 10 correct

You know the terms. Keep in mind that the real exam also asks you to read graphs and work through problems, which none of these 10 tested. Take Round 2, then spend your study time on graphs and genetics problems.

Questions

QUESTION 1 OF 10 | MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

The nucleus occurs only in _____ cells, and houses many different types of nucleic acids--the more famous ones being DNA and RNA.

A. eukaryotic
B. respiratory
C. stem
D. prokaryotic

QUESTION 2 OF 10 | ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

_____ are different versions of genes that impart the same characteristic.

A. Exons
B. Alleles
C. Codons
D. Introns

QUESTION 3 OF 10 | POPULATION BIOLOGY

Nitrogen is returned to the _____ through denitrification.

A. biosphere
B. hemisphere
C. stratosphere
D. atmosphere

QUESTION 4 OF 10 | MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

The nucleolus is an area of the nucleus where _____ are constructed.

A. ribosomes
B. centrioles
C. lysosomes
D. peptides

QUESTION 5 OF 10 | ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

The circulatory system transports oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients, waste products, immune components, and _____.

A. hormones
B. enzymes
C. lipids
D. vesicles

QUESTION 6 OF 10 | POPULATION BIOLOGY

Almost all living organisms use the same basic biochemical molecules, including DNA, ATP, and many identical or nearly identical enzymes. Organisms utilize the same DNA triplet base code and the same 20 _____ in their proteins.

A. amino acids
B. nucleic acids
C. carbohydrates
D. antigens

QUESTION 7 OF 10 | MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

Genetic engineering, genetic modification (GM), and Gene _____ (once in widespread use but now deprecated) describe the process of manipulating genes in an animal or plant, outside of the organism's normal reproductive process.

A. Selecting
B. Surveying
C. Serrating
D. Splicing

QUESTION 8 OF 10 | ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

Lack of blood supply means that cartilage cells must exchange nutrients and wastes by _____.

A. osmosis
B. diffusion
C. displacement
D. excretion

QUESTION 9 OF 10 | POPULATION BIOLOGY

_____ is an action by a sender that influences the behavior of a receiver.

A. collaboration
B. communication
C. cooperation
D. competition

QUESTION 10 OF 10 | MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

R plasmids can be transferred by _____ from one bacterial cell to another, further increasing numbers in the resistant population.

A. transduction
B. conjugation
C. transformation
D. transportation

Answer Key

1. A eukaryotic

A cell that contains a distinct nucleus is known as a eukaryotic cell, as opposed to a prokaryotic cell (no nucleus). RNA moves out into the cytoplasm (what lies between the nucleus and the cell wall).

2. B Alleles

Each human has a gene that controls height, but there are variations among these genes in accordance with the specific height the gene "codes" for. These variations are alleles.

3. D atmosphere

This occurs when anaerobic bacteria (chemoautotrophs) break down nitrates and release nitrogen gas back into the atmosphere.

4. A ribosomes

There are usually two nucleoli per nucleus.

5. A hormones

The major organs include the heart, capillaries, arteries, and veins. The lymphatic system also transports excess fluids to and from the circulatory system and transports fat to the heart.

6. A amino acids

We know of no obvious functional reason why these components need to be so similar. These similarities can be explained by descent from a common ancestor

7. D Splicing

It often involves the isolation, manipulation and reintroduction of DNA into model organisms, usually to express a protein. The aim is to produce new species, increase the yield of an existing species, or to design new organisms. Examples are the production of human insulin through the use of modified bacteria and the production of new types of mice like the OncoMouse (cancer mouse) through genetic redesign.

8. B diffusion

This explains its limited capacity for growth and repair.

9. B communication

When the sender and receiver are members of the same species, signals will benefit both sender and receiver.

10. B conjugation

These resistant bacteria survive in the presence of the antibiotic and pass the resistance genes on to future generations.

Want 10 more? Take Round 2 online

Round 2 is 10 more questions from the same 880 cards, heavier on heredity, and it ends with the population growth equation almost everyone misses. Take Round 1 on the page below, enter your email on the score screen, and the Round 2 link follows.

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The full Biology study guide

880 Biology flashcards, each one with an explanation of why the answer is right, plus the Specific Exam Feedback forum on DegreeForum.net, where members post what was on their exam. $20/month, cancel anytime. 30-day money-back guarantee. 91% of InstantCert students who reported a Biology score passed, against a 56% national pass rate (FY25 College Board).

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