



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2024

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Biology

Assessment Unit AS 3

assessing

Practical Skills in AS Biology

MV24

[SBY31]

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY, MORNING

Time

1 hour, plus your additional time allowance.

Instructions to Candidates

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.

Do not write on blank pages.

Complete in black ink only.

Answer **all six** questions.

Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 50.

Figures in brackets printed at the end of each question indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

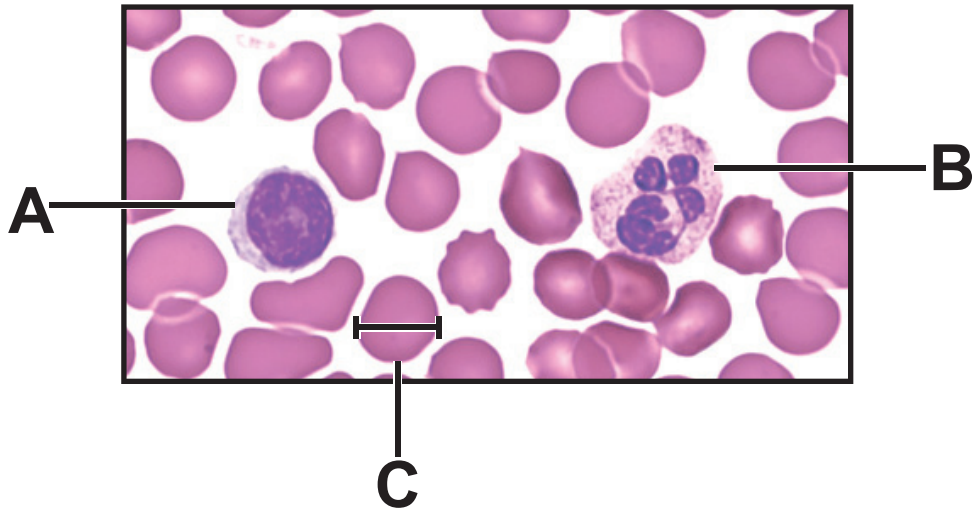
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

Use accurate scientific terminology in all answers.

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(Questions start overleaf)

1 A human blood smear is shown in the photomicrograph below.



(a) Identify the white blood cells labelled **A** and **B**. [2 marks]

A _____

B _____

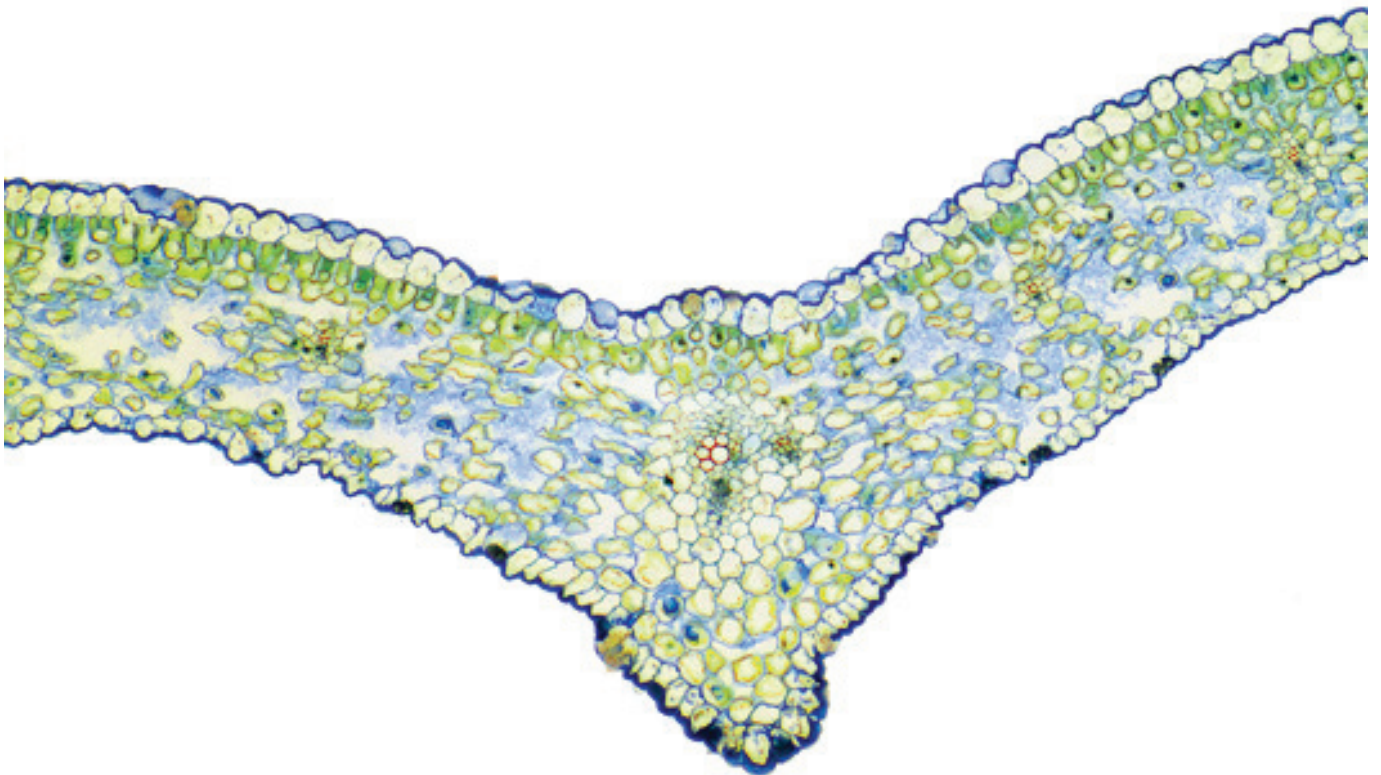
(b) The blood cell labelled **C** is $7\ \mu\text{m}$ in diameter.

Use the lines on cell **C** to calculate the magnification of this image. [2 marks]

Give your answer to the nearest whole number.

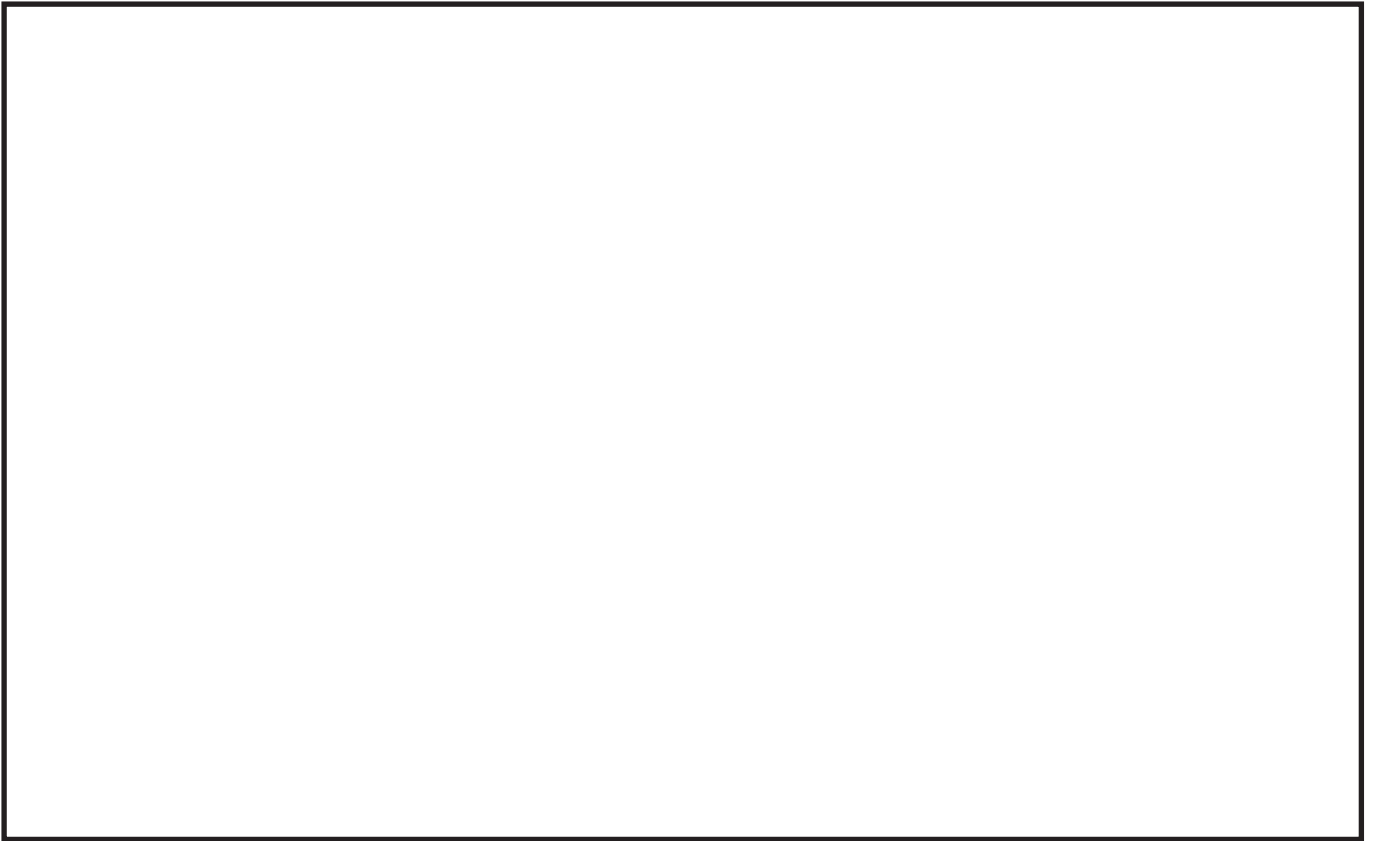
(Show your working.)

2 The photomicrograph below shows a transverse section through a leaf.



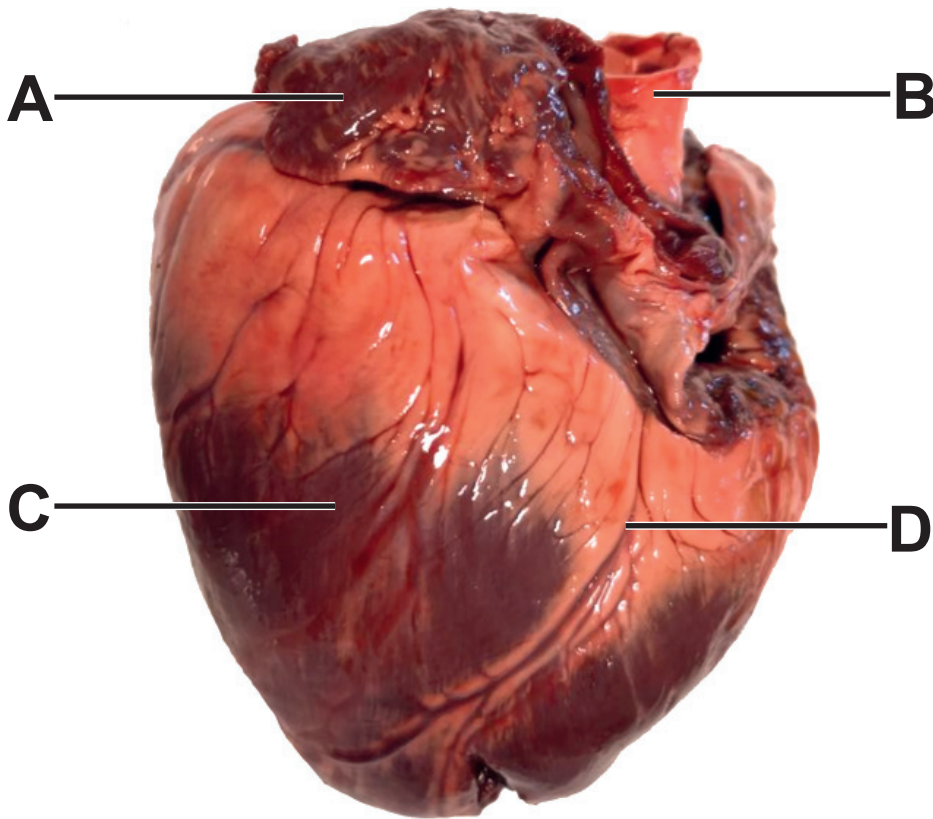
(a) Draw a block diagram of this section in the box opposite.

Label **three** tissue layers in your drawing. [5 marks]



(b) Using the photomicrograph, give **one** piece of evidence which suggests that this leaf is **not** xerophytic. [1 mark]

3 (a) The photograph below shows a lamb's heart before dissection.



(i) Identify the parts of the heart labelled **A** to **C**. [3 marks]

A _____

B _____

C _____

(ii) An atheroma in blood vessel **D** is found in people with heart disease.

Name blood vessel **D**. [1 mark]

D _____

Use the photograph on page 8 to answer the following question.

(b) (i) During dissection, a vertical cut was made through part **C**.

Name **two** internal structures which would now be visible and state their function in the circulation of blood through the heart. [4 marks]

1 _____

Function _____

2 _____

Function _____

(ii) Describe **one** safety precaution necessary when carrying out a dissection. [1 mark]

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4 Chromatography can be used to identify amino acids.

(a) After amino acid solutions have been applied to chromatography paper, the next stages are 'running' and 'developing' the chromatogram.

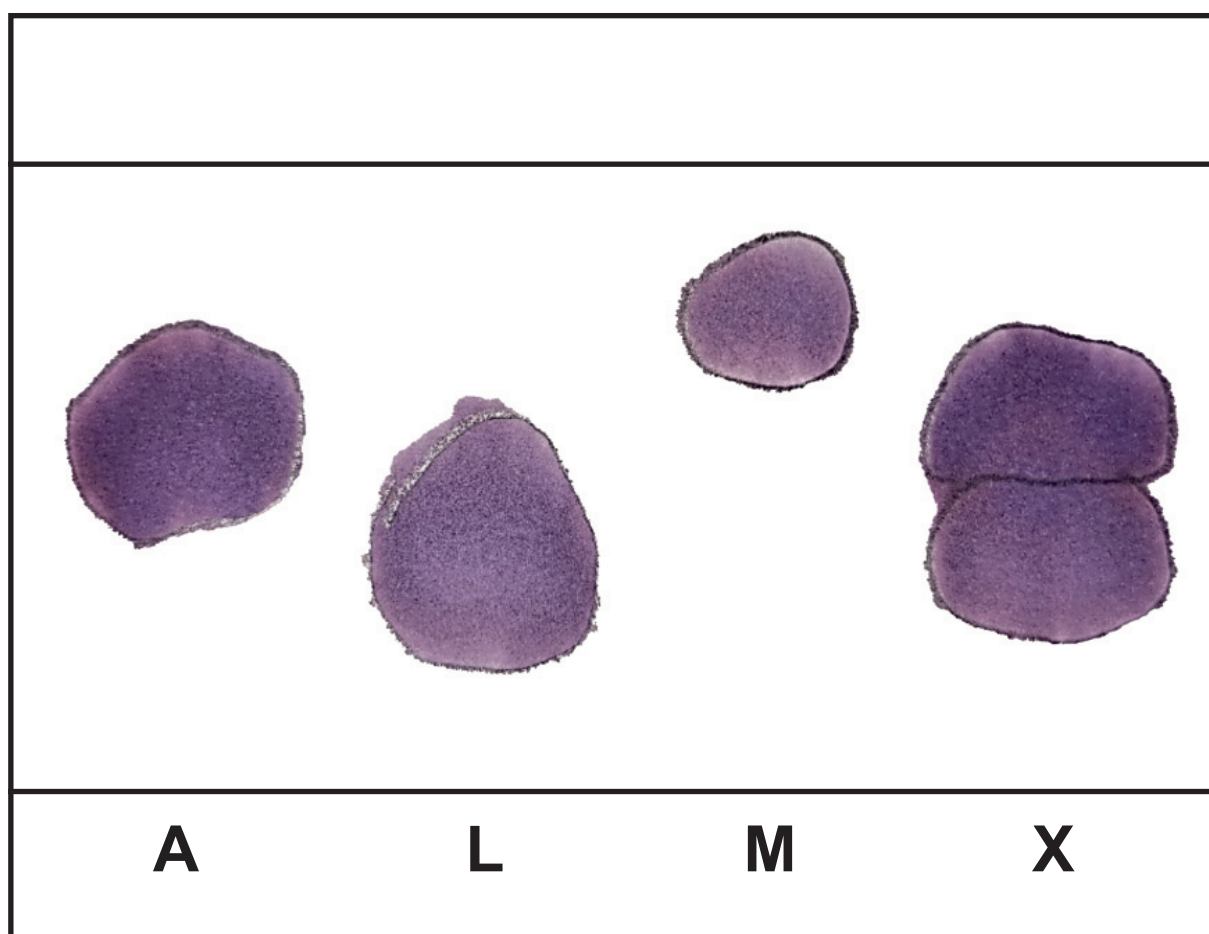
Describe each of these stages.
[4 marks]

Running _____

Developing _____

(b) Paper chromatography was carried out with three known amino acids – alanine (**A**), lysine (**L**), and methionine (**M**). In addition, a mixture of amino acids (**X**) was analysed.

The developed chromatogram is shown below.



(i) Use the letter **S** to label the solvent front on this chromatogram.
[1 mark]

(ii) Using the chromatogram opposite, state the number and identity of amino acids in mixture **X**. [2 marks]

Number _____

Identity of amino acids

(iii) The accepted R_f value for alanine is 0.38

The R_f value for alanine calculated using this chromatogram was 0.42

Suggest a reason why the R_f value obtained here would have differed from the accepted value.

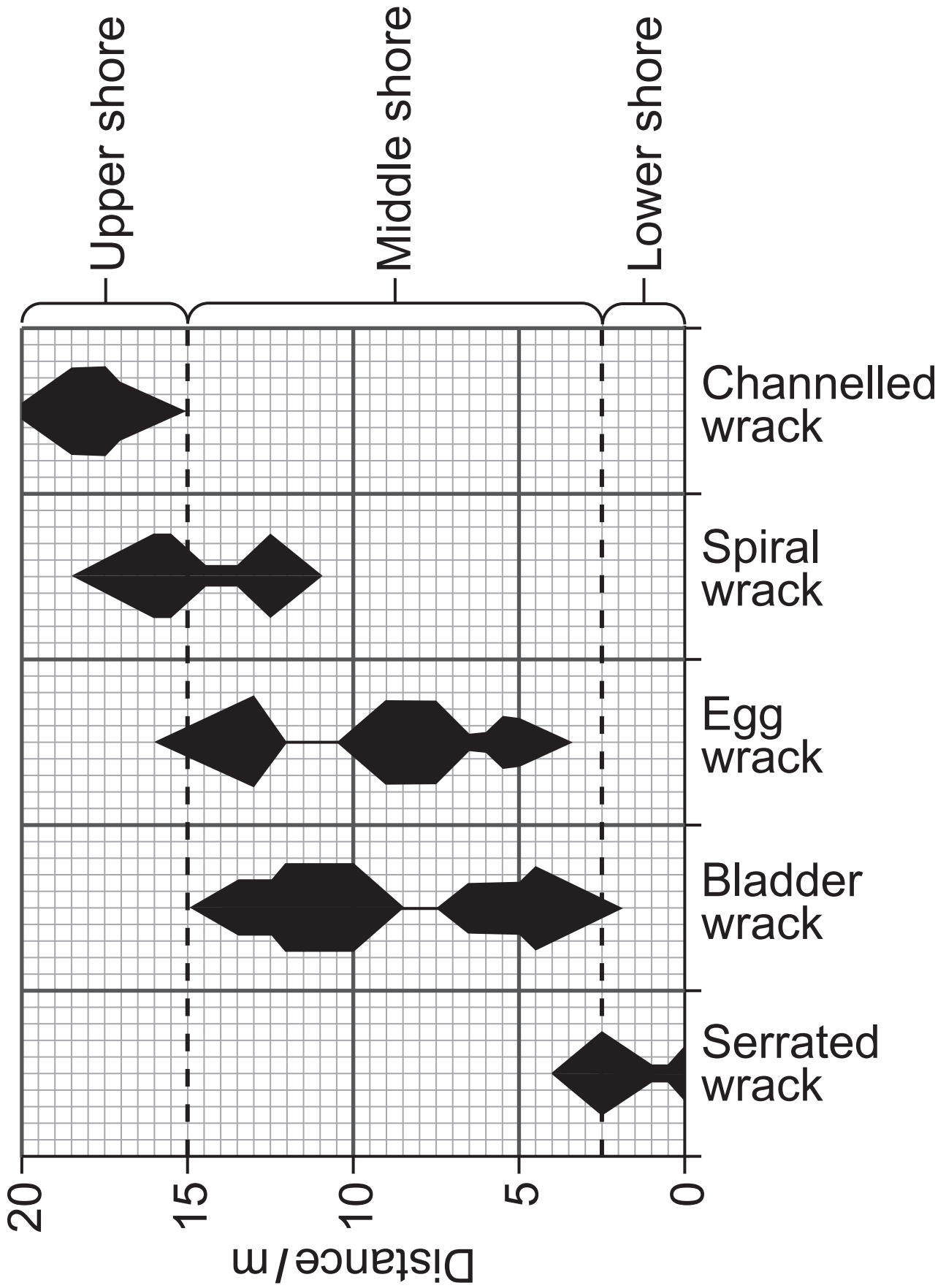
[1 mark]

5 An interrupted belt transect was used to sample five species of seaweed on a rocky shore.

A 20 m transect was placed from the lower shore to the upper shore and quadrats were placed at 2 m intervals.

(a) Explain why this was the most appropriate method of sampling this habitat. [1 mark]

(b) The results of the transect are shown in the kite diagram opposite. The shaded areas represent the abundance of each species at a particular distance on the shore (the larger the area, the greater the abundance).



(iii) None of the five species of seaweed were found beyond 20 m.

Suggest **one** abiotic factor that would account for this and explain how this factor prevents seaweed growth beyond 20 m. [2 marks]

(c) Sea snails are small invertebrates which were also sampled along this belt transect.

Name the most suitable apparatus for sampling sea snails. [2 marks]

Explain your answer.

Apparatus _____

Explanation _____

6 Enzymes can be extracted from plant tissue. Plants store glucose as starch and an enzyme is involved in the conversion of glucose to starch in cells. An extract containing the enzyme, as well as other cell components, can be produced by crushing raw potato tissue with water and filtering this mixture.

To use this extract in investigations, any starch in the mixture should be removed. This is achieved using centrifugation, where the enzyme remains in the liquid component at the top of the centrifuge tube after spinning and the starch is found in the 'pellet' at the bottom.

(a) (i) From the information provided, state your conclusion regarding the **size** of starch molecules relative to the enzyme molecules. [1 mark]

(ii) Describe how iodine can be used to show that no starch remains in the enzyme extract. [1 mark]

(b) Although not a pure enzyme extract, the solution obtained can be used in enzyme investigations. In such investigations, the production of starch is used as a measure of enzyme activity. This is done using iodine and a colorimeter.

(i) Suggest and explain which colour of filter is most appropriate for this investigation. [2 marks]

Colour _____

Explanation _____

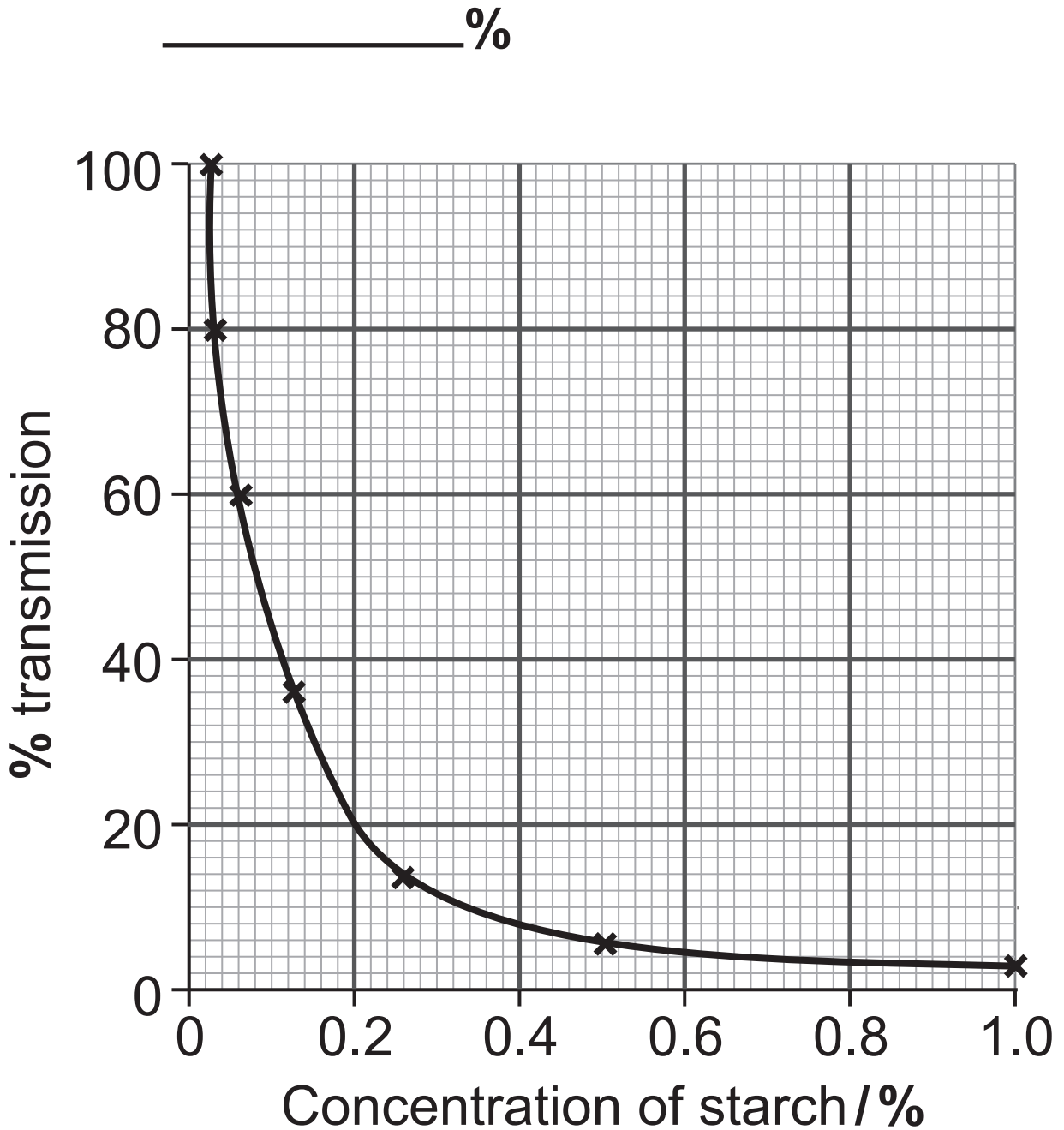
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(Questions continue overleaf)

(c) The table below shows results for an investigation using this enzyme extract. Samples were removed and tested at 5-minute intervals.

Time / minutes	% transmission of light
0	45
5	36
10	29
15	22
20	17
25	15
30	13
35	11
40	10

(ii) Use the table on page 24 and the calibration graph below to determine the concentration of starch at 40 minutes. [1 mark]



(iii) Suggest how the concentration of starch after 40 minutes would have differed if a diluted preparation of the enzyme extract had been used.
[2 marks]

Explain your answer.

**This is the end of the question
paper**

SOURCES

Q1.....© Eye of Science / Science Photo Library

Q2.....© Steve Gschmeissner / Science Photo Library

Q3.....© Principal Examiner

Q4.....© Principal Examiner

Q5b and Q6c(ii)....."© CCEA AS/A2 Unit 3: Biology Student Guide: Practical Skills in Biology by John Campton (2018) ISBN: 9781510419155. Published by Hodder and Stoughton Educational Limited "Reproduced with permission of the Licensor through PLSclear."

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Question Number	Marks
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
Total Marks	

Examiner Number

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