

Variation and Evolution

Question Paper 1

Level	GCSE (9-1)
Subject	Combined Science – Trilogy - Biology
Exam Board	AQA
Topic	4.6 Inheritance Variation and Evolution
Sub-Topic	Variation and Evolution
Difficulty Level	Silver Level
Booklet	Question Paper 1

Time Allowed: 58 minutes

Score: / 57

Percentage: /100

Grade Boundaries:

Q1. Moose are animals that eat grass.

Figure 1 shows a moose.

Figure 1



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Figure 2 shows a food chain.

Figure 2

Grass → Moose → Wolves

(a) Name the secondary consumer shown in **Figure 2**.

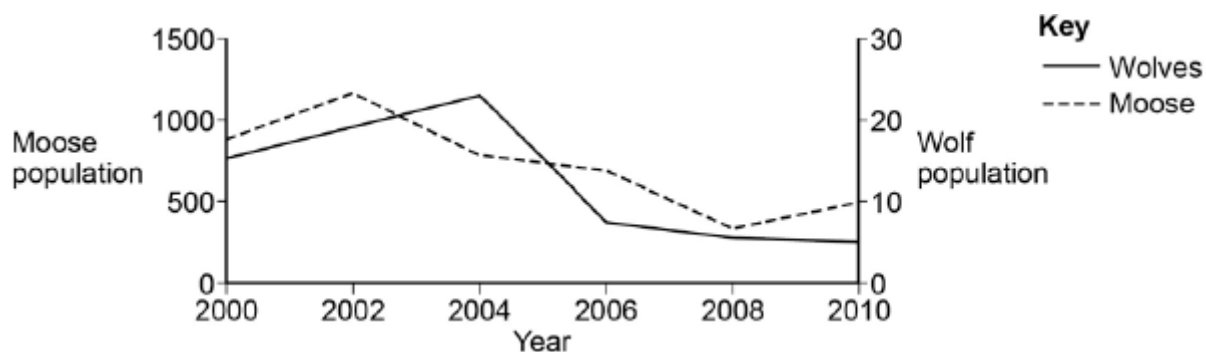
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(1)

(b) **Figure 3** shows how the moose population and wolf population have changed in one area.

This is a predator-prey cycle.

Figure 3



In 2004 the line on **Figure 3** for wolves is above the line for moose.

How does **Figure 3** show that there are more moose than wolves in 2004?

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(1)

- (c) Suggest why the moose population decreased between 2002 and 2004.

Use information from **Figure 3**.

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(1)

- (d) The number of wolves is one biotic factor that could affect the size of the moose population.

Give **two** other biotic factors that could affect the size of the moose population.

1

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2

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(2)

- (e) Moose have distinct characteristics such as antlers.

Describe how moose may have evolved to have large antlers.

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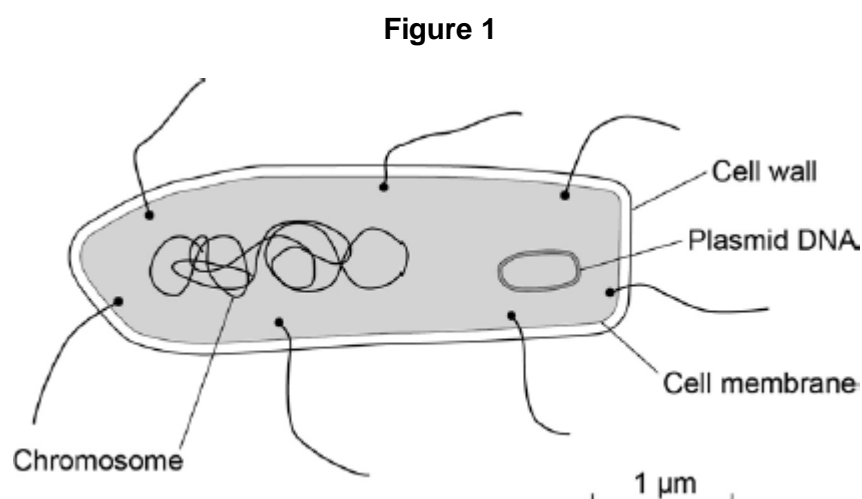
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(5)
(Total 10 marks)

Q2.Bacteria can cause disease.

Figure 1 shows some features of a *Salmonella* bacterium.



(a) Draw **one** line from each feature of the *Salmonella* bacterium to the function.

Feature	Function
Cell membrane	Controls the movement of substances into and out of the cell
Plasmid DNA	Carries genetic information
	Provides support and protection
	The site of protein synthesis

(2)

- (b) How is *Salmonella* spread between people?

Tick **one** box.

Animal bites

☐

Contaminated food

☐

Sneezing

☐

Sexual contact

☐

(1)

- (c) Give **two** ways you could stop *Salmonella* from spreading.

1

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2

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(2)

- (d) Harmful bacteria can also be useful.

Scientists are doing research to find out if *Salmonella* can be used in a vaccine to treat cancer.

The *Salmonella* vaccine can be injected into the blood or swallowed in a tablet.

One benefit of injecting the vaccine is that it gets to the cancer quickly in the blood.

What is another benefit?

Tick **one** box.

All cancers can be treated by the injection ☐

It will not cause sickness and diarrhoea side effects ☐

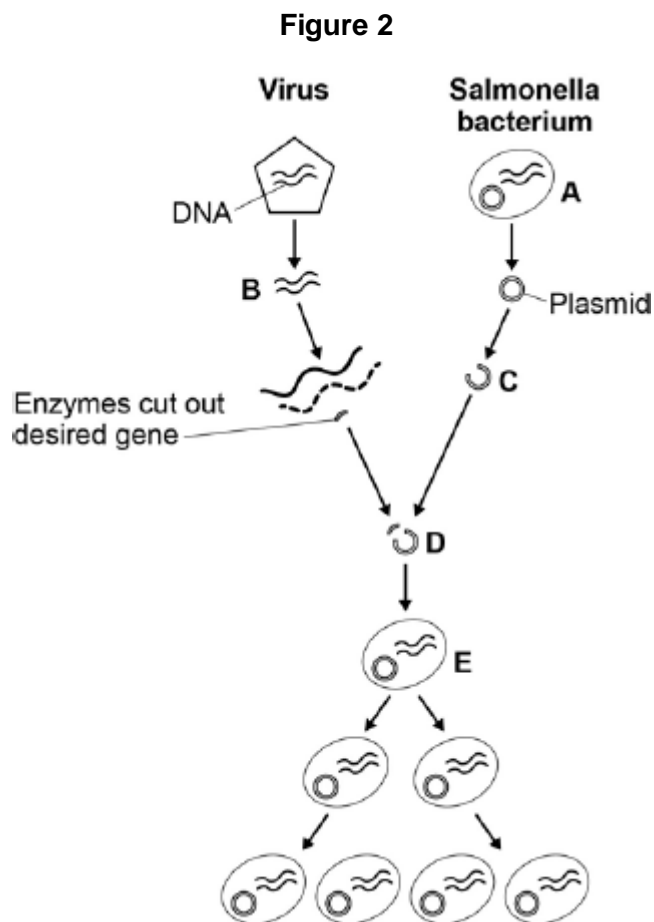
The injection is not painful to the patient ☐

The injection introduces cancer cells into the body ☐

(1)

- (e) The *Salmonella* bacterium used in the vaccine is genetically modified using part of a virus.

Look at **Figure 2**.



Complete the sentences.

Use the letters from **Figure 2**.

Bacteria reproduce quickly in part

DNA with the desired gene is removed from the virus in part

The chosen gene is inserted into the plasmid in part

(3)
(Total 9 marks)

Q3.(a) Which of the following is the **best** definition of a species?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Organisms with many features in common

☐

Organisms that live in the same habitat and eat the same food

☐

Organisms that reproduce together to form fertile offspring

☐

(1)

(b) **Figure 1** is a photograph of the Grand Canyon.

The layers of rock contain fossils.

Figure 1



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Scientists found five fossils of different species of animal, **P**, **Q**, **R**, **S** and **T**, at the

positions shown in **Figure 1**.

- (i) What is the evidence in **Figure 1** that animals **P** and **Q** were alive at the same time?

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(1)

- (ii) Was animal **R** alive at an earlier time or at a later time than animals **P** and **Q**?

Give the reason for your answer.

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(1)

- (iii) Which **two** of the following would be evidence that animal **T** may have evolved from animal **S**?

Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

The fossils of animals **S** and **T** have many features in common, but **T** is more complex than **S**.

☐

The fossils of animals **S** and **T** are the same size.

☐

The fossils of animals **S** and **T** have the same skin colour.

☐

The fossil of animal **S** was found in a deeper layer of rock than the fossil of animal **T**.

☐

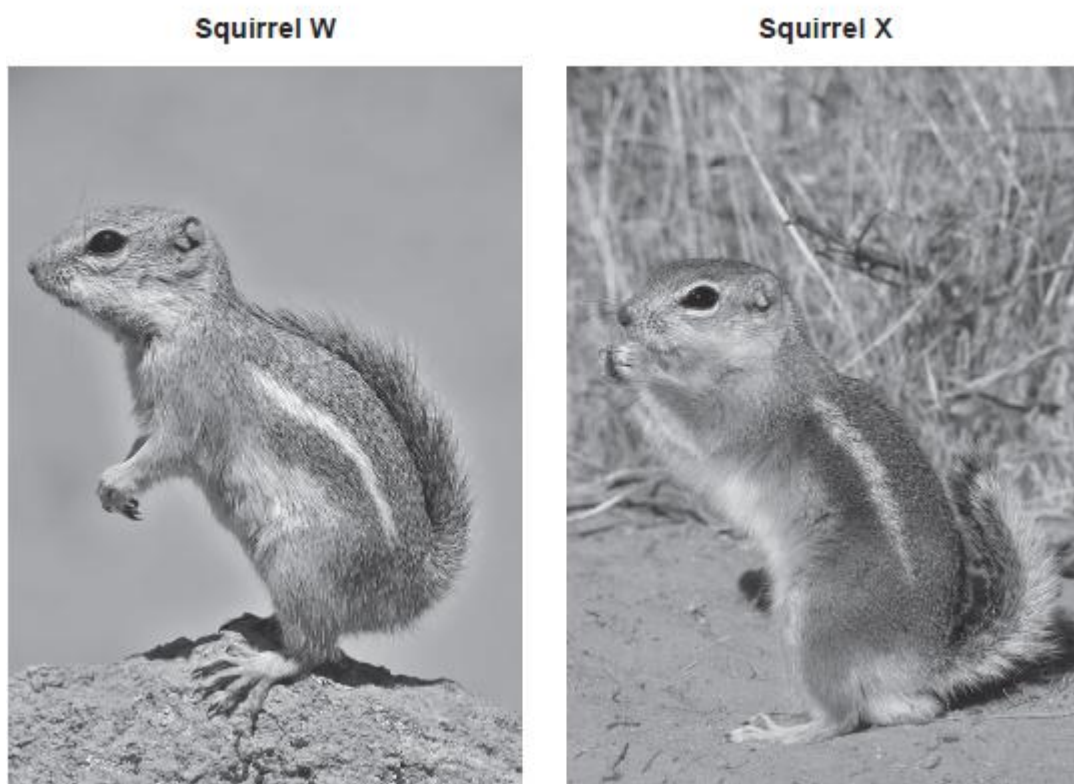
The fossil of animal **T** is more similar to the fossil of animal **R** than to the fossil of animal **S**.

☐

(2)

- (c) **Figure 2** shows two species of ground squirrel, **W** and **X**.

Figure 2



Squirrel **W** lives on the high ground to the south of the Grand Canyon.

Squirrel **X** lives on the high ground to the north of the Grand Canyon.

The land to the north of the Grand Canyon is about 300 metres higher than the land on the south side. The north side also has lower winter temperatures and has more rain and snow than the south side.

- (i) The two species of squirrel are very similar.

Describe **one** way, which you can see in **Figure 2**, in which squirrel **X** is different from squirrel **W**.

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(1)

- (ii) The Grand Canyon was formed about 6 million years ago.

Explain how the two different species of squirrel could have developed from a common ancestor.

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(6)

- (iii) Squirrels **W** and **X** are separate species, but they are still very similar.
Suggest why the two species have **not** become more different over time.

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(2)

(Total 14 marks)

Q4. Glyphosate is a herbicide.

Crop plants have been genetically modified to make them resistant to glyphosate.

- (a) Why is it an advantage to make crop plants resistant to glyphosate?

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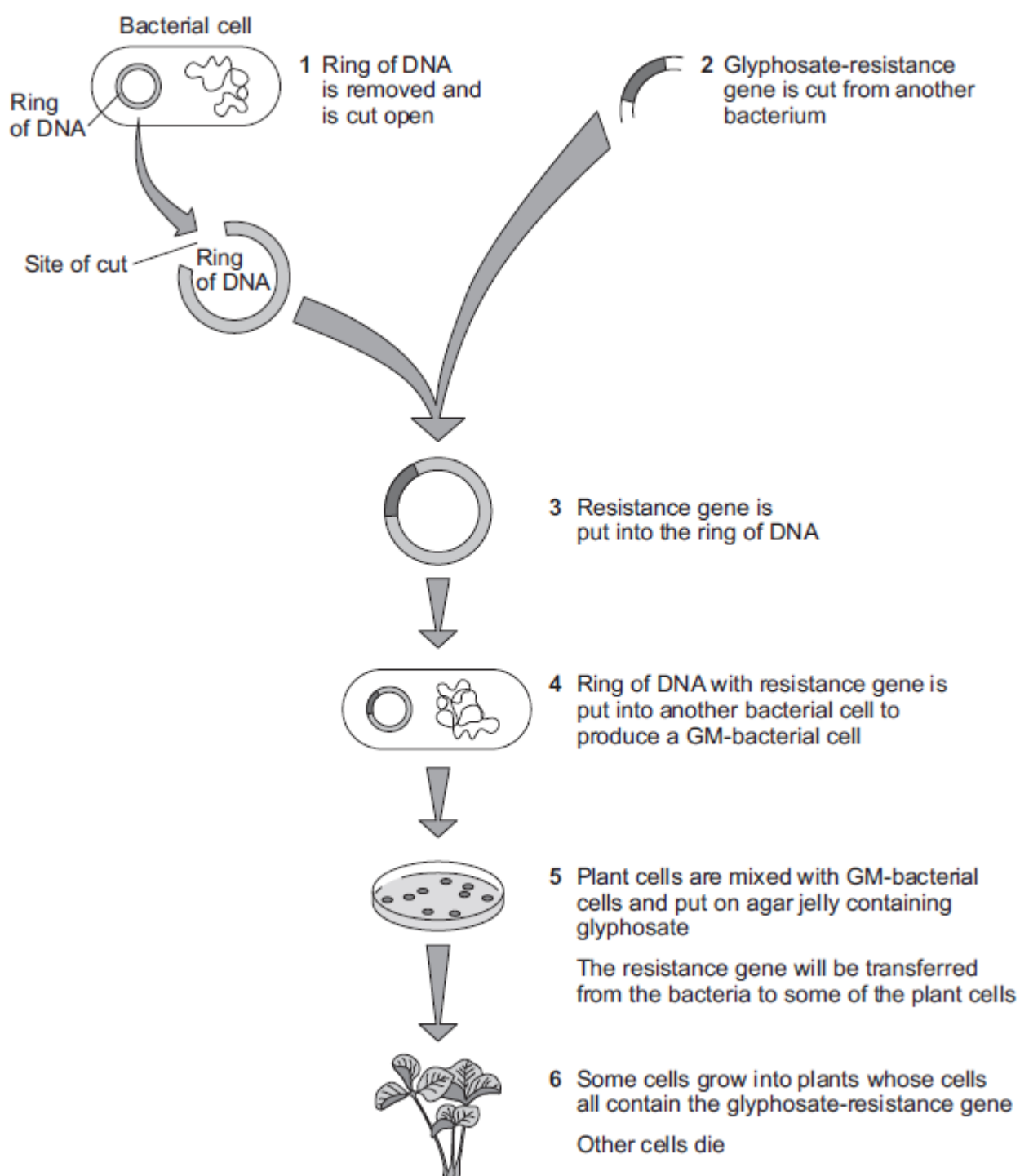
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(3)

- (b) **Figure 1** shows how scientists produce genetically modified (GM) crop plants.

The scientists use a GM-bacterium that can invade plant cells.

Figure 1



- (i) The ring of DNA shown in **Figure 1** acts as a vector for the resistance gene.

What is the scientific name for this ring of DNA?

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(1)

- (ii) At step **1** in **Figure 1**, the ring of DNA is cut open.

How do scientists cut open the ring of DNA?

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(1)

- (iii) At step **5** in **Figure 1**, plant cells and GM-bacteria are put on agar containing glyphosate.

Explain why the scientists add glyphosate to the agar.

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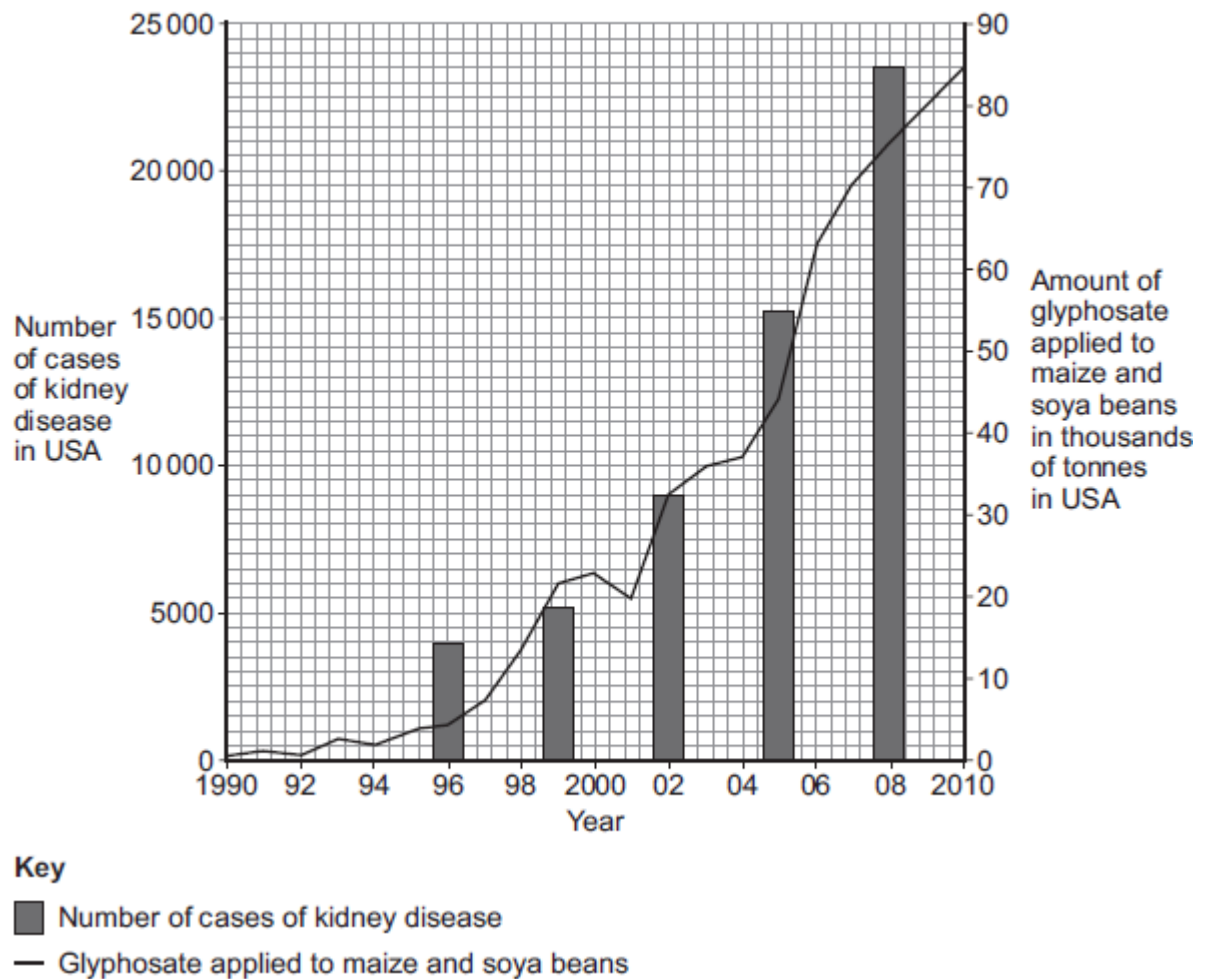
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(2)

- (c) Some people disagree with the use of GM herbicide-resistant crop plants.

Figure 2 shows data published on a website in 2013.

Figure 2



A journalist used the data to claim: ‘Scientists show that GM crops cause kidney disease in humans.’

Use information from **Figure 2** to evaluate the evidence for this claim.

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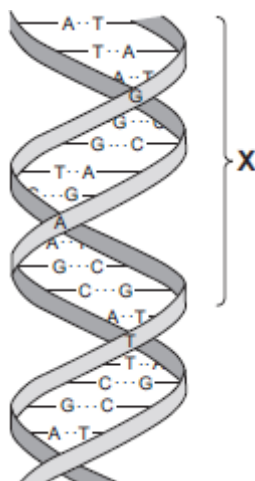
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(4)
(Total 11 marks)

Q5. The diagram shows part of a DNA molecule.



- (a) (i) In which part of an animal cell is DNA found?

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(1)

- (ii) Complete the following sentence.

The letters **A**, **C**, **G** and **T** in the diagram represent four different compounds called

(1)

- (iii) One strand of the DNA, in the section labelled **X**, contains the following sequence of these compounds:

T A T G G G T C T T C G

How many amino acids would this section of the DNA code for?

(1)

- (iv) The section of DNA described in part **(a) (iii)** is a small part of a gene.

The sequence of compounds **A**, **C**, **G** and **T** in the gene is important.

Explain why.

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(2)

- (b) *Read the following information about genetic engineering.*

The caterpillar of the European Corn Borer moth feeds on the fruits of maize (sweet corn). There is a chemical called Bt-toxin which is poisonous to the corn borer caterpillar but not to humans.

Scientists carried out the following steps.

1. The Scientists made a bacterial plasmid to which they added two genes:
 - **Bt** gene, which coded for production of the Bt-toxin
 - **kan^r** gene, which coded for resistance to an antibiotic called kanamycin.
2. They used this plasmid to produce genetically modified bacteria which could invade plant cells.
3. They mixed these genetically modified bacteria with pieces cut from maize leaves.
4. They placed the pieces of maize leaf on agar jelly in a Petri dish. The agar jelly contained the antibiotic, kanamycin. The kanamycin killed most of the pieces of maize leaf, but a few survived.
5. They took some cells from the surviving pieces of maize leaf and grew them in tissue culture.

The result was maize plants that now contained the **Bt** gene, as well as the **kan^r** gene, in all of their cells.

- (i) What is a **plasmid** (Step 1)?

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(2)

- (ii) Why did the scientists add **kanamycin** to the agar jelly (Step 4)?

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(2)

- (iii) The scientists grew each Bt-maize plant from a single cell which contained the **Bt** gene.

Explain why **all** the cells in the Bt-maize plant contained the **Bt** gene.

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(2)

- (iv) Kanamycin is an antibiotic.

Some scientists are concerned that the gene for kanamycin resistance has been put into maize.

Suggest why.

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(2)
(Total 13 marks)