

### HINTS FOR SOLVING CRP QUESTIONS

- ◆ CRP questions tend to be of only a few main types:
  1. The question has several steps and may require you to combine the concepts learned in two or more different topics (e.g. A question about the rate of photosynthesis of plants may also require knowledge of enzyme function at certain temperatures and diffusion of chemicals such as carbon dioxide through the cell membrane).
  2. You may be expected to use your knowledge of one organism and apply that knowledge to another organism with which you may not be familiar (e.g. A question may relate to the digestive system of a herbivore such as a kangaroo when you have only studied the digestive system of omnivores such as humans).
  3. You may be asked to design an experiment. Always ensure that you state the hypothesis, the control and the variables clearly.
  4. You may be asked your opinion on a topic. Always support your opinion with factual evidence. Use objective language.
- ◆ Bring extra paper to the exam. You may need it to scribble your rough drafts, or to write extended answers.
- ◆ Calculate the approximate time needed to answer each CRP question in the allocated exam time (e.g. about 15 minutes per question). Allow at least 5 minutes at the end for checking your answers.
- ◆ Read the question once to get a general idea of what is being asked. Then re-read the question one or two more times, highlighting the important points.
- ◆ The question may appear at first glance to be similar to one that you have done in class. Don't be fooled. There may be a twist to the question that you may miss if you don't read it carefully enough. Also when you are studying for the exam, read your textbook thoroughly, taking note of unusual exceptions to the general ideas that you have learnt (e.g. Most plants tend to grow well in less saline soil, but mangroves have various adaptations for surviving in saltwater environments).
- ◆ If there are terms that are new to you (e.g. 'hydrophilic'), work out what the word means by looking at its parts (e.g. 'hydro=water' and 'philic=loving', hence 'hydrophilic=water-loving').
- ◆ Use the correct terms (e.g. write 'denaturation of enzymes' not 'enzymes stop functioning', and 'optimum' instead of 'best').
- ◆ If the question involves a table, a graph or a mathematical formula, always show in your answer that you have referred to these by quoting some of the relevant data from the table or graph, or by showing that you know how to use the formula.
- ◆ If the question requires an extended answer, ensure that your answer flows logically from one idea to the next.
- ◆ Attempt all questions. If you can't understand the question at first, read it again, ask your teacher for help or come back to it later.
- ◆ After the teacher has marked the CRP exams, it is very important for you to listen to what the expected answer was, and how the results of A, B, C etc. were allocated so that you improve each time you sit for CRP exams.
- ◆ Please note that the answers in the following examples show the main points only and do not represent a completed answer.