



A-Level Biology

Control of Blood Glucose

Mark Scheme

Time available: 64 minutes

Marks available: 45 marks

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Mark schemes

1.

- (a) 1. Changes tertiary structure;
Reject change in tertiary structure of receptor.
2. No longer complementary (to receptor);
Reject 'active site' or reference to enzyme or substrate.

2

- (b) 1. Less/no AKT activated;
2. Fewer/no vesicles move to membrane

OR

Fewer/no (channel) proteins in membrane;
Accept 'fuse with membrane'.

3. Less/no glucose diffuses into cell (so high blood glucose);

3

- (c) 1. High concentration of glucose in blood/filtrate;
Accept tubule for filtrate.
2. Not all the glucose is (re)absorbed at the proximal convoluted tubule;
Reject no glucose is (re)absorbed.
3. Carrier/co-transport proteins are working at maximum rate

OR

Carrier/co-transport proteins/ are saturated;
Accept all carrier/co-transport proteins are 'in use' but reject all carriers are 'used up'.
Accept symport for carrier protein.
Accept not enough carrier proteins to absorb all the glucose.

3

[8]

2.

- (a) 1. (Attaches to receptors on target cells and) activates/stimulates enzymes;
Reject 'produces enzymes'.
2. Glycerol/amino acids/fatty acids into glucose;
Reject 'glucagon converts' as context suggests enzyme action.
Ignore lipids/fats/proteins but reject glycogen.
Reject occurs in pancreas.

2

- (b) 1. Correct answer of 3.24 = **2 marks**;;
2. Incorrect but multiplies by 34 (with decimal point in any position) = **1 mark**
OR
 Incorrect but shows sequence 324 = **1 mark**
OR
 3.2 = **1 mark**;

2

- (c) 1. (More) insulin binds to receptors;
2. (Stimulates) uptake of glucose by channel/transport proteins
OR
 Activates enzymes which convert glucose to glycogen;
Accept activates enzymes for glycogenesis.
Reject active transport.
Accept carrier proteins or GLUT 4 for channel proteins.
Accept insulin stimulates addition of channel proteins in membranes.

2

- (d) 1. Less/no ATP is converted to cyclic AMP/cAMP;
2. Less/no kinase is activated;
3. Less/no glycogen is converted to glucose
OR
 Less/no glycogenolysis;
*If no indication of less/no for any of the mark points award **max 2 marks**.*
Accept all marks in context of adrenaline.
Ignore gluconeogenesis.

3

[9]

3.

- (a) 1. (Usually) Type II produce insulin;
2. Cells / receptors less sensitive / responsive (to insulin)
OR
 Faulty (insulin) receptors;
3. (Treated / controlled by) diet / exercise;
2. *Accept: cells / receptors do not respond.*
2. *Accept: 'fewer receptors'*
3. *Accept: (Treated / controlled by) weight loss / medication / drugs.*
3. *Ignore: diabetes is caused by diet / exercise.*

2 max

- (b) Tick in box 4

1

- (c) 1. Attach to gene / DNA / promoter region;
 2. Stimulate / inhibit transcription / RNA polymerase;
Note: Genes being expressed / inhibited or switched on / off is not enough on its own.

2

- (d) 1. (Effective as) group A / with iPS / treated lower than group B / with diabetes;
 2. (Effective as) group A similar to group C / without diabetes;
 3. (Investigation) done on mice not humans;
 4. Only shows results for 12 weeks / short-time period / long-term effects not known;
Ignore: Only one study / not repeated / sample size.
 2. Accept: 'healthy' or 'normal' or control for group C.

4

[9]

4.

- (a) 1. Release of glucagon;
 2. Leads to formation of glucose in liver (cells);
Reject: glucagon breaks down glycogen, or any other biological molecule
 3. From non-carbohydrates / amino acids / fatty acids.
Accept: gluconeogenesis / references to glycogen as source of glucose

3

- (b) 1. Mutant mice (mRNA suggests) make a lot of (the) enzyme;
Accept: PCK1 made (for enzyme made)
 2. Mutant mice use kidney / intestine (cells) to make glucose;
Accept: use other organ (than liver)
 3. Normal mice do this much less / normal mice use liver cells.

3

- (c) 1. Differences significant;
Reject: references to results being significant once
 2. Probability of difference being due to chance less than 0.01 / 1% / 1 in 100 / probability of difference not being due to chance more than 0.99 / 99% / 99 in 100.
Ignore: references to 0.05 / 5% / 5 in 100

2

[8]

5.

(a) (Formation of glycogen)

1. Glucose concentration in cell / liver falls below that in blood (plasma) which creates / maintains glucose concentration / diffusion gradient;
2. Glucose enters cell / leaves blood by facilitated diffusion / via carrier(protein) / channel (protein);

Not just diffusion

2

(b) 1. Insulin sensitivity similar to / not (significantly) different from those with diabetes;

No values for non-obese, so comparisons with 'normal' not possible

2. Overlap of SDs;

Accept SE

3. Their sensitivity (to insulin also) improved by GBS;

2 max

(c) 1. Sensitivity (to insulin) does increase;

This part of the question concerns spread of data, not overlap of SDs

2. But large SD / large variation (after GBS);

Accept use of figures / use of SD values to make this point.

Ignore ref to SE

3. (So) some showing no / little change / get worse;

4. Do not know what sensitivity to insulin is of non-diabetics (who are not obese);

Accept 'normal' as non-diabetic

3 max

[7]

6.

(a) 1. Glucose oxidase and peroxidase;

Both enzymes required

2. Dye (with colour A);

Reject 'dye with colour B'. Ignore named dyes

2

- (b)
1. Concentration is given as a range (for each colour) / measurement is not precise;
 2. Only measures glucose concentration above normal / above 170 (mg 100 cm⁻³) (in blood);
 3. 170 (mg 100 cm⁻³) is an average figure / concentration for loss to urine varies (between people);
 4. Difficult to match colour against chart / colour match is subjective;

2 max

[4]