

**Text: Biodiversity**

Biodiversity can refer to genetic variation, species variation, or ecosystem variation within an area or planet. Terrestrial biodiversity tends to be highest at low latitudes near the equator, which seems to be the result of the warm climate and high primary productivity. Marine biodiversity tends to be highest along coasts in the Western Pacific, where sea surface temperature is highest and in mid-latitudinal band in all oceans.

Biodiversity is not evenly distributed; rather it varies greatly across the globe as well as within regions. Among other factors, the diversity of all living things (biota) depends on temperature, precipitation, altitude, soils, geography and the presence of other species.

Biodiversity is the result of 3.5 billion years of evolution. The origin of life has not been definitely established by science; however, some evidence suggests that life may already have been well-established only a few hundred million years after the formation of the earth. Until approximately 600 million years ago, all life consisted of bacteria, protozoans and similar single-celled organisms.

A biodiversity hotspot is a region with a high level of endemic species that is under threat from humans. The term hotspot was introduced in 1988 by Dr. Sabina Virk. While hotspots are spread all over the world, the majority are forest areas and most are located in the Tropics.

**Questions: (20pts)**

*I. Comprehension questions: (05 pts)*

**A. Multiple choice questions: Choose the right answer. (01 pt)**

**1) Marine biodiversity is found in great quantities.....**

- a) at low latitudes near the equator.
- b) along coasts in the Western Pacific.
- c) all across the globe.
- d) in the Tropics

**2) Dr. Sabina Virk first used the term hotspot.....**

- a) 600 million years ago.
- b) 3.5 billion years ago.
- c) in 1988.
- d) after the formation of the earth.

**B. True or False: Copy down the true sentences and correct the false ones. (2 pts) 1)**

- There is more terrestrial biodiversity near the equator.
- 2) The distribution of biodiversity is the same everywhere.
- 3) Science has been able to define where life originates from. 4) Most hotspots are forest areas.

*C. Answer the following questions: (2 pts)*

- 1) What are some factors of the diversity of biota?
- 2) What did all life consist of in the past? **II. Language: (10 points)**

**A. Link words in column A with their synonyms in B so as to have pairs. (2 pts)**

A	B
Variation	Flat and level
Even	Type or kind
Species	Person/ thing seen as a danger
Threat	Change

**B. Turn the sentences into the passive (2 pts). 1) The teacher explained this lesson.**

- 2) Somebody will repair the engines tomorrow.
- 3) My neighbors water the garden every morning. 4) The villagers produce this delicious honey.

**C. You have just come to a new school and you want to know what is allowed in that school and what is not, so you ask your neighbor. What can you say? What can she reply?**

*D. Translate into French: (2 pts)*

Among other factors, the diversity of all living things (biota) depends on temperature, precipitation, altitude, soils, geography and the presence of other species.

*E. Translate into English: (2pts)*

Aujourd'hui, avec les changements climatiques, il est très important de protéger l'environnement pour que la biodiversité ne soit pas détruite. Cela est important pour la survie de l'humanité.

**III. Composition: Choose only one topic (5 pts)**

- A.** Global warming is making life more and more difficult for humans and animals. What measures can be taken to protect biodiversity and avoid the destruction of living habitats?
- B.** Adama Traoré, a civil servant at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Koulouba, has just been appointed head of his department. He decides to inform by postcard his cousin Amadou Touré, a geography teacher at Lycée Ibrahima Ly, Banakabougou. Upon reception, Amadou writes back to congratulate his cousin.

Write Amadou's reply postcard.