

4. Noncyclic electron flow and cyclic electron flow are two major pathways of the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis. In noncyclic electron flow, electrons pass through photosystem II, then components of a chloroplast electron transport chain, and then photosystem I before finally reducing NADP⁺ to NADPH. In cyclic electron flow, electrons cycle through photosystem I and some components of the electron transport chain (Figure 1).

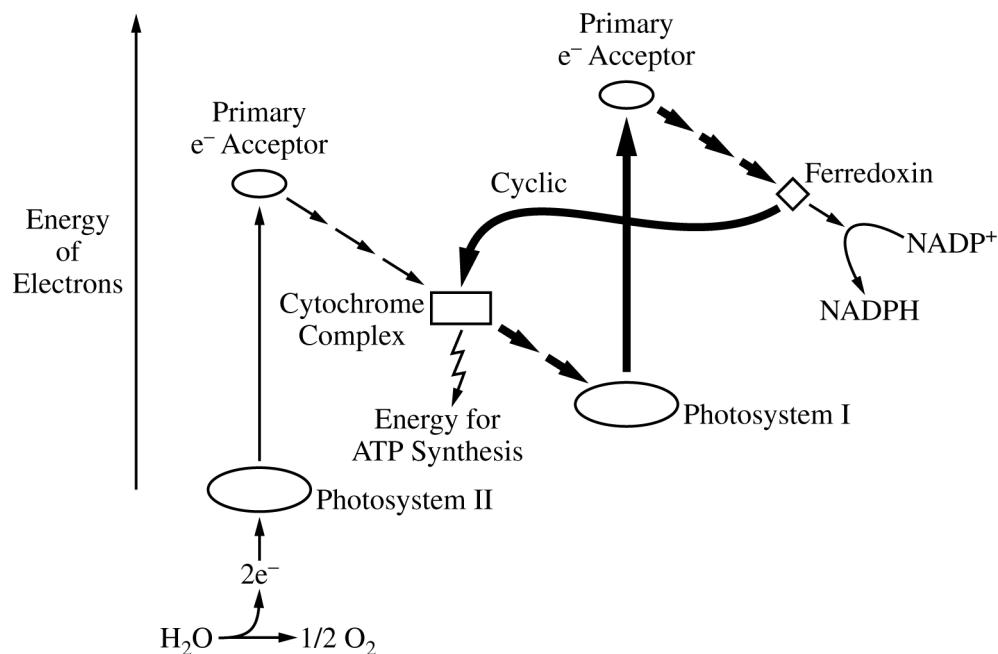


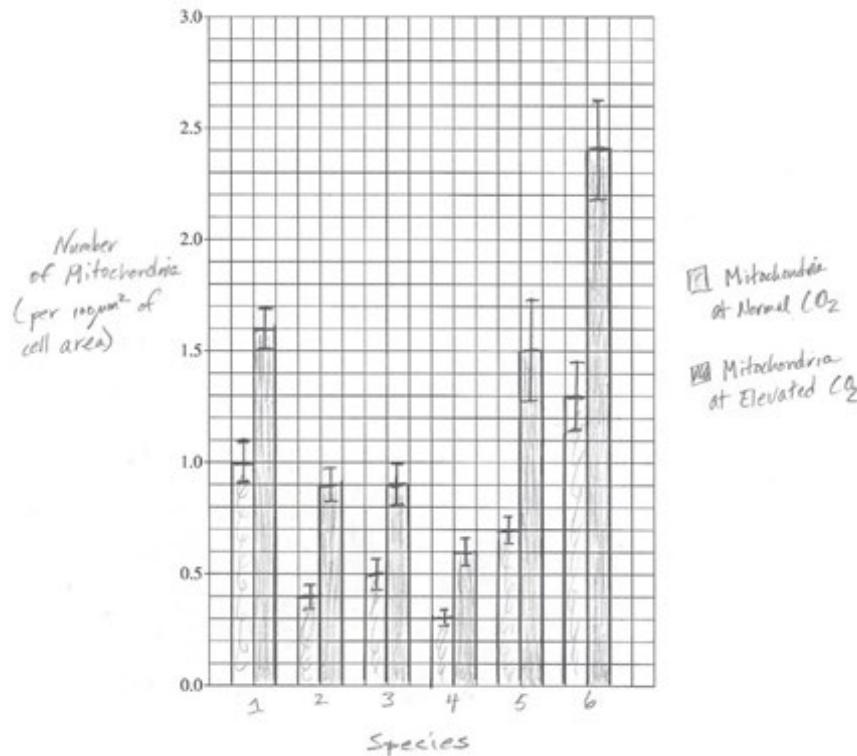
Figure 1. The pathways of noncyclic and cyclic (heavy arrows) electron flow. The cytochrome complex is a component of the electron transport chain between the two photosystems.

- (a) **Describe** the role of chlorophyll in the photosystems of plant cells.
- (b) Based on Figure 1, **explain** why an increase in the ratio of NADPH to NADP⁺ will cause an increase in the flow of electrons through the cyclic pathway.
- (c) Using rice plants, scientists examined the effect of a mutation that results in the loss of the protein CRR6. CRR6 is a part of the photosystem I complex, and its absence reduces the activity of photosystem I. **Predict** the effect of the mutation on the rate of biomass (dry weight) accumulation.
- (d) **Justify** your prediction in part (c).

Write your responses to this question only on the designated pages in the separate Free Response booklet.

- (b) Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriately labeled graph that represents the data in Table 1. 1 point

Sample response:



- Appropriate labelling

- Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriately labeled graph that represents the data in Table 1. 1 point

- Data are represented in a bar/modified bar graph.

- Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriately labeled graph that represents the data in Table 1. 1 point

- Data points and error bars are correctly plotted.

- Determine** which species show(s) a difference in the number of mitochondria between normal and elevated levels of CO₂. 1 point

- All of the species

Total for part (b) 4 points

- (c) Based on the data in Table 1, **describe** the relationship between the level of CO₂ and the average number of mitochondria per unit area of a cell. 1 point
- Accept one of the following:
- The number of mitochondria is greater under conditions of elevated CO₂ (than under normal CO₂).
 - It is a positive relationship/correlation.

Question 4: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

Noncyclic electron flow and cyclic electron flow are two major pathways of the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis. In noncyclic electron flow, electrons pass through photosystem II, then components of a chloroplast electron transport chain, and then photosystem I before finally reducing NADP⁺ to NADPH. In cyclic electron flow, electrons cycle through photosystem I and some components of the electron transport chain (Figure 1).

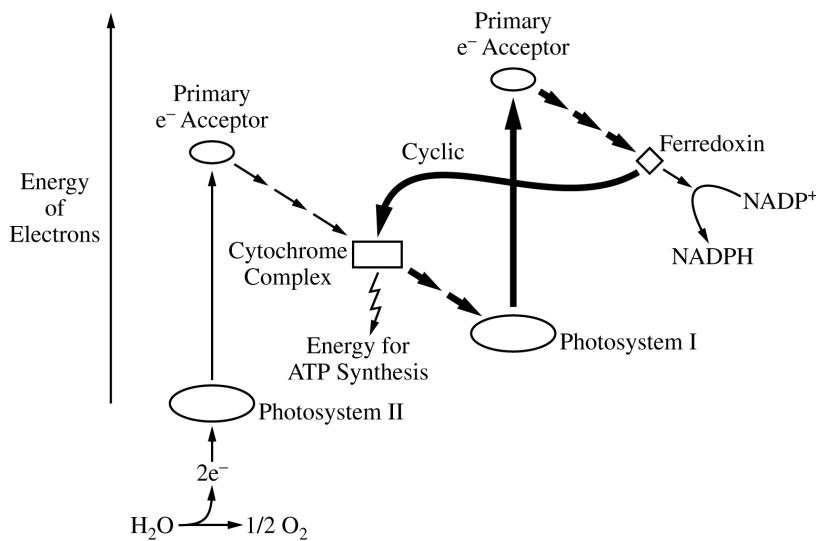


Figure 1. The pathways of noncyclic and cyclic (heavy arrows) electron flow. The cytochrome complex is a component of the electron transport chain between the two photosystems.

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| (a) | Describe the role of chlorophyll in the photosystems of plant cells. | 1 point |
| Accept one of the following: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chlorophyll <u>captures/absorbs</u> light (energy). Chlorophyll <u>receives electrons (from water)/receives electrons (from an electron transport chain)/transfers electrons (to an electron transport chain)</u>. | | |
| (b) | Based on Figure 1, explain why an increase in the ratio of NADPH to NADP ⁺ will cause an increase in the flow of electrons through the cyclic pathway. | 1 point |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is <u>less/no</u> NADP⁺ to accept the electrons, so the electrons pass (instead) <u>to the cyclic pathway/from ferredoxin to the cytochrome complex</u>. | | |
| (c) | Using rice plants, scientists examined the effect of a mutation that results in the loss of the protein CRR6. CRR6 is a part of the photosystem I complex, and its absence reduces the activity of photosystem I. Predict the effect of the mutation on the rate of biomass (dry weight) accumulation. | 1 point |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The rate (of biomass accumulation)/Biomass/It</u> will be lower (in comparison with plants without the mutation). | | |
| (d) | Justify your prediction in part (c). | 1 point |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be insufficient <u>ATP/NADPH</u> produced for <u>the synthesis of carbohydrates/the Calvin cycle</u>. | | |

Total for question 4 4 points