

2019 AP® BIOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. A student studying two different aquatic, plant-eating, unicellular protist species (species A and B) designed an experiment to investigate the ecological relationship between the two species (Table 1).

TABLE 1. EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT GROUPS

Group I.	Species A and B are each grown in separate containers.
Group II.	Species A and B are grown together in the same container.

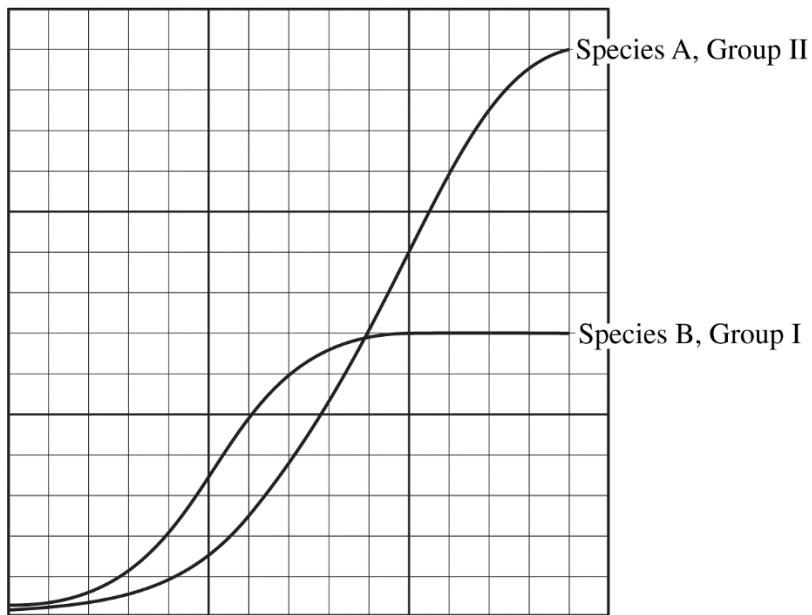
In treatment group I, the student placed 10 individuals of species A into a container with liquid growth medium and 10 individuals of species B into a separate container with an equal amount of the same liquid growth medium. In treatment group II, the student placed 5 individuals of each species into a single container with the liquid growth medium. The student then maintained the containers under the same environmental conditions and recorded the number of individuals in each population at various time points. The results are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN EACH PROTIST POPULATION IN BOTH TREATMENT GROUPS

Time (h)	Group I. Grown Separately		Group II. Grown Together	
	Species A	Species B	Species A	Species B
0	10	10	5	5
10	100	50	45	20
20	400	200	100	50
30	1100	500	250	25
40	1400	650	525	20
50	1500	700	900	10
60	1500	700	1250	0
70	1500	700	1400	0

- The growth curves for species B in group I and for species A in group II (shaded columns) have been plotted on the template. Use the template to **complete** an appropriately labeled line graph to illustrate the growth of species A in treatment group I and species B in treatment group II (unshaded columns).
- As shown in the table, the student established treatment group II with 5 individuals of each species. **Provide reasoning** for the reduced initial population sizes.
- The student claims that species A and B compete for the same food source. **Provide TWO pieces of evidence** from the data that support the student’s claim.
- Predict** TWO factors that will most likely limit the population growth of species A in treatment group I.
- Many protists contain an organelle called a contractile vacuole that pumps water out of the cell. The student repeated the experiment using a growth medium with a lower solute concentration. **Predict** how the activity of the contractile vacuole will change under the new experimental conditions. **Justify** your prediction.

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Question 2

A student studying two different aquatic, plant-eating, unicellular protist species (species A and B) designed an experiment to investigate the ecological relationship between the two species (Table 1).

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(a) The growth curves for species B in group I and for species A in group II (shaded columns) have been plotted on the template. Use the template to **complete** an appropriately labeled line graph to illustrate the growth of species A in treatment group I and species B in treatment group II (unshaded columns).

Completion (3 points)

- Correctly plotted lines for remaining two treatments
- Correctly labeled axes including units
- Correctly labeled data lines

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Question 2 (continued)

(b) As shown in the table, the researcher established treatment group II with 5 individuals of each species. **Provide reasoning** for the reduced initial population sizes.

Reasoning (1 point)

- Reduced initial population sizes keep the total number of organisms the same in all containers.
- Reduced initial population sizes serve as a control for population density.

(c) The student claims that species A and B compete for the same food source. **Provide TWO pieces of evidence** from the data that support the student's claim.

Evidence (1 point per row; 2 points max.)

Comparison of Groups	Evidence
I-A to II-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth rate is faster in I/slower in II
I-A to II-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grows to a higher population density in I/lower population density in II
I-B to II-B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth rate is faster in I/slower in II
I-B to II-B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grows to a higher population density in I/lower population density in II/II dies out/II goes to zero

(d) **Predict** TWO factors that most likely limit the population growth of species A in treatment group I.

Prediction (2 points)

Acceptable factors include:

- Food
- Space
- Metabolic waste
- Dissolved oxygen

(e) Many protists contain an organelle called a contractile vacuole that pumps water out of the cell. The student repeated the experiment using a growth medium with a lower solute concentration. **Predict** how the activity of the contractile vacuole will change under the new experimental conditions. **Justify** your prediction.

Prediction (1 point)

- The contractile vacuole will be more active.

Justification (1 point)

- The environment is hypotonic with respect to the cell.
- The cell is hypertonic with respect to environment.
- Water has entered the cell (which could cause lysis).
- The cell has lower water potential than the environment/the environment has higher water potential than the cell.