2.3 Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforests: Test Pack

AQA 8035 · Calculator allowed · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

1 Describe the global pattern of distribution of biomes (large-scale ecosystems), such as tropical rainforest, hot desert and tundra.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 This question is about the characteristics of tropical rainforests.

(a) State TWO characteristics of a tropical rainforest's climate. **(2)**

(b) Name the FOUR layers of a tropical rainforest, from highest to lowest. **(4)**

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

3 Explain TWO impacts of deforestation.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.3 Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforests: Test Pack

Question 1

biomes are broadly arranged in bands, or zones, related to latitude, oe **B1**

tropical rainforests are found close to the Equator, where temperatures and rainfall are consistently high, oe **B1**

colder biomes such as tundra are found at high latitudes, closer to the poles, where temperatures are consistently low, oe **B1**

Answer: Biomes are broadly arranged in bands related to latitude: tropical rainforests occur close to the Equator, where temperature and rainfall are consistently high, while colder biomes such as tundra occur at high latitudes, closer to the poles.

Question 2

(a) high, consistent temperatures throughout the year, typically around 27°C, oe **B1**

(a) very high annual rainfall, typically over 2000 mm, with little seasonal variation, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: High, consistent temperatures throughout the year, typically around 27°C, and very high annual rainfall, typically over 2000 mm, with little seasonal variation.

(b) emergent layer (tallest trees, above the main canopy) **B1**

(b) canopy layer (a continuous layer of tree tops) **B1**

(b) under-canopy (under-storey) **B1**

(b) shrub (forest floor) layer **B1**

(b) Answer: Emergent layer, canopy layer, under-canopy (under-storey), and the shrub (forest floor) layer.

Question 3

impact 1, e.g. soil erosion, oe **B1**

linked detail, e.g. with the tree canopy and roots removed, heavy rainfall washes away the exposed, already thin topsoil, oe **B1**

impact 2, e.g. loss of biodiversity, oe **B1**

linked detail, e.g. many species lose their habitat, threatening extinction, since rainforests support such a high concentration of the world's plant and animal species, oe **B1**

Answer: For example: soil erosion, since removing the tree canopy and roots exposes the already thin topsoil to being washed away by heavy rainfall; and loss of biodiversity, as many species lose their habitat, which is especially serious given how much of the world's plant and animal life the biome supports.

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