

Subject: Biology

Title of essay: The effect of light intensity, temperature and pH on the level of physical activity of dragonfly nymphs (Anisoptera)

Criterion	Mark awarded (criterion)	<i>Comments should reference each individual assessment criterion. Please copy this form and include a copy per script – please type or write in the space below and continue on a separate sheet if necessary (maximum 50 words per criterion sample). Comments will be made available to examiners undertaking training.</i>	Total
A	2	The research question is clearly and precisely stated.	2
B	1	There is some attempt to place the study in an academic context. The candidate clearly ran into some difficulties finding relevant published material but has done a good job of using the papers that were accessed. Some investigation into the broader field of environmental variables would have been useful.	1
C	4	Although only a limited range of sources is provided, this essay scores highly due to the large, well organized and very relevant body of data collected by the candidate through the practical investigation.	4
D	4	There is evidenced through the use of suitable reference material to which the results of this study are meaningfully compared. The data collection and analysis methodologies are also clearly understood and appropriately applied.	4
E	4	There is a well set out reasoned argument which makes constant reference to the research question.	4

F	4	Graphical analysis is effective and appropriate. Statistical analysis is clearly set out and this is done to an appropriate level. The very large body of data is analyzed to reveal the important trends and these are presented in such a way as to directly address the research question	4
G	4	Clear and precise use of language. Important concepts are well understood and explained.	4
H	2	Conclusions are couched in appropriately tentative language. Important and statistically significant trends are highlighted.	2
I	4	The bibliography is clearly set out. Details on the websites visited are provided. Tables and graphs are used well to enhance the text. The large body of data in the appendix is clearly presented. Other aspects are dealt with well.	4
J	2	All of the requirements are clearly stated.	2
K	4	Clear evidence of independence, initiative, insight and determination	4
<p><i>Comments: Please add a short holistic summary (approximately 100 words) summing up the strengths and weaknesses of the essay. An excellent essay with lots of personal input from the candidate. Motivation and independence must have been high throughout to allow the collection of this large body of data. There is clear evidence of the need for a carefully planned investigation with appropriate controls for statistical purposes. The data are carefully analyzed and the conclusions reached are clearly seen as being tentative.</i></p>			Total 35