

BIO1140 Introduction to Cell Biology

Professor: Dr. Caroline Petit-Turcotte

Midterm Exam 2 – Version MM: Saturday March 18th, 2017

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN EXAMS UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A COMPLETE EXAM PACKAGE – 1 QUESTIONNAIRE (14 PAGES) AND 1 SCANTRON SHEET

General Instructions:

1. This exam is worth 15% of your final mark.
2. You will have 1 hour and 15 minutes (75 minutes) to write the exam.
3. Write your name and student number within the spaces provided on **all 14 pages**.
4. You should only have writing material and this exam on your desk, nothing else.
5. When you have finished, you may return your exam and leave the room. But please remain in your seat during the last 10 minutes.

Part A Instructions (20 marks): Multiple Choice.

1. **Use pencil.** On the Scantron, write down your exam version code (**BIO1140MM**) in the course code field. Also write your student number and name, and be sure to fill in the bubbles accordingly.
2. Indicate only one answer for each of the 20 multiple choice questions, directly on the computer scan sheet (**Scantron**). *Do not attempt to change an answer if you use ink.* This will be recorded as 'incorrect'. You will need a new scan sheet.
3. **Please transfer all your answers to the Scantron sheet prior to the end of the exam.** You will not be given extra time to do so and the proctors will not do it for you.
4. Follow instructions on the computer Scantron sheet.

Parts B-D Instructions (37 marks): Long Answers.

1. You may write in ink or in pencil. If you choose to answer in pencil, a marking review may not be awarded and is at the discretion of the professor or course coordinator.
2. Please provide a written answer for all questions **within the space provided**. You may use point form as long as these points are clear and complete.
3. Marks will not be given for irrelevant or illegible writing. Organize your thoughts carefully.
4. You may use a diagram as an aid, but a **diagram alone will not constitute a complete answer**.

Cellular phones, unauthorized electronic devices or course notes are not allowed during this exam.

Phones and devices must be turned off and put away in your bag. Do not keep them in your possession, such as in your pockets. If caught with such a device or document, the following may occur:

You will be asked to leave immediately the exam, academic fraud allegations will be filed which may result in you obtaining a 0 (zero) for the exam.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have ensured that you are complying with the above statement.

Student Name: **Marking scheme** / Signature: _____

Student Number: _____

Student number: _____

MM

Section A – Multiple Choice Questions (20 questions – 1 mark each)

Please transfer your answers, in pencil, to the Scantron sheet provided – we will not transfer answers

1. This is a question for pedagogical research purposes only and you will get 1 mark regardless of your answer. *Please answer it honestly.* Thank you.

How would you rate your preparation level compared to the first midterm?

- a) Less prepared
- b) Somewhat the same
- c) Slightly better
- d) Much better

2. In a chloroplast, where does ATP synthesis (using the F-pump ATP synthase) take place?

- a) The matrix
- b) The outer membrane
- c) The internal membrane
- d) The stroma

3. During cellular respiration in eukaryotes, which step takes place in the cytoplasm?

- a) Oxidative phosphorylation
- b) The citric acid cycle
- c) Fatty acid oxidation
- d) Glycolysis
- e) None of the above

4. Unlike mitochondria, chloroplasts do not have a transporter to export ATP to the cytosol. How does the plant cell obtain the ATP it needs to survive?

- a) The ATP produced in chloroplast is mostly used for carbon fixation
- b) The ATP produced in chloroplast can diffuse across the thylakoid membrane
- c) The orientation of the ATP-synthase produces ATP in the cytosol
- d) There is no ATP production by chloroplast

Student number: _____

MM

5. Which of these cellular events is **not** associated with necrosis?

- a) Loss of electrochemical gradients
- b) Increased cell adhesion**
- c) Dissolution of plasma membrane
- d) Cellular lysis
- e) None of the above

6. Which of the following choices does **not** correspond to a post-translational modification that occurs in the Golgi?

- a) Lipidation
- b) Acetylation
- c) Disulfide bond formation**
- d) Methylation

7. In order to obtain the following mRNA sequence; 5' ACUGCUAGCUAGCGCG 3', which of these template strands did the RNA polymerase use?

- a) 5' ACTGCTAGCTAGCGCG 3'
- b) 3' TGACGATCGATCGCGC 5'**
- c) 5' TGACGATCGATCGCGC 3'
- d) 3' GCGCGATCGATCGTCA 5'

8. Initiator caspases are known to:

- a) Bind directly to transmembrane receptors and initiate apoptosis.
- b) Activate other caspases.**
- c) Phosphorylate essential proteins at a cysteine-aspartate site.
- d) Release cytochrome c from the mitochondrion.
- e) None of the above.

Student number: _____

MM

9. Enzymatic receptors, such as tyrosine kinase receptors, require a sequence of events to become active. Which of these statements is correct?

a) A ligand, such as a growth factor, binds to a receptor; autophosphorylation of 6 tyrosine residues provides the kinase activity to the receptor

b) A ligand, such as a growth factor, binds to a ligand binding domain; a membrane bound effector is recruited; the kinase activity of the receptor is functional

c) A ligand, such as a growth factor, binds to 2 monomeric subunits; dimerization recruits a kinase that will phosphorylate 6 tyrosine residues; the kinase activity of the receptor is functional

d) A ligand, such as a growth factor, binds to 2 monomeric subunits; dimerization leads to autophosphorylation of 6 tyrosine residues; the kinase activity of the receptor is functional

e) None of the above

10. Membrane proteins (and lipids) vital to the structure and function of the plasma membrane are typically delivered to the membrane via:

a) endocytosis

b) the regulated secretory pathway

c) the constitutive secretory pathway

d) ubiquitination

e) both b and c

11. Which of the following statements about intracellular receptors is incorrect?

a) Once opened, they will inactivate an amplifier enzyme.

b) They preferably bind to lipophilic ligands

c) They are present in the cytosol or the nucleus

d) They mainly act by affecting gene expression

e) None, they are all correct

12. If a frameshift mutation occurs in an intron, what will be the ultimate outcome for the organism?

a) The organism will not be able to survive

b) It will be of little consequence as the intron will be spliced

c) It will depend on the new reading frame

d) It depends on the impact of that intron during translation

Student number: _____

MM

13. Your experiments on cells in culture reveal that their DNA has become fragmented and a specific protein was released. Which of the following choices corresponds to the chronology of events for these cells?

- a) IP₃ releases Bak/Bax from the ER → Ca²⁺ rises in cytosol → PTP pore is opened → cytochrome C is secreted by mitochondria
- b) Ca²⁺ enters the cell → mitochondria and ER increase their uptake of Ca²⁺ → Bad is released from mitochondria → cytochrome C is activated
- c) Bad is dephosphorylated → BCL2 is inactivated → IP₃-gated Ca²⁺ channel is opened → cytochrome C is released from mitochondria
- d) Bad is activated → Ca²⁺ is released from the mitochondria → cytochrome C increases in cytoplasm → loss of cellular adhesion is observed

14. Which of the following statements best describes how transmembrane receptors depend on membrane structure for stability and efficiency:

- a) The membrane does not influence transmembrane receptors
- b) The receptors are located in areas with less fluidity to offer more structural support
- c) The receptors are located in areas with similar fluidity but increased thickness
- d) The receptors are located in areas with more fluidity to facilitate conformational changes

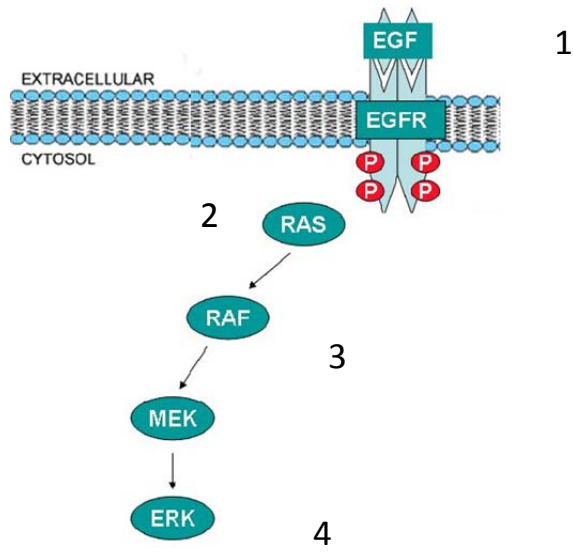
15. Because of the Wobble effect (oscillation), there is more than one possible _____ for valine.

- a) DNA
- b) tRNA
- c) mRNA
- d) rRNA
- e) ribosome

Student number: _____

MM

16. Using the diagram below, identify where amplification occurs:



- a) At all 4 steps
- b) At all steps except step 1
- c) At all steps except step 4
- d) None of the steps

17. Which of the following statements correctly describes how a steroid-derived messenger would act on its target cell:

- a) Binding to a Trk monomer – dimerization and autophosphorylation – activation of MAPK and AP1
- b) Binding to a GPCR – activation of $G\alpha_s$ and adenylate cyclase – activation of PKA – binding to CRE in promoter
- c) Binding to an intracellular receptor – ligand-receptor complex goes to nucleus – binding to RE in promoter
- d) Binding to transmembrane receptor – change in conformation – flow of ions and change in membrane potential

Student number: _____

MM

18. A mutation to Grb2's SH3 domain prevents it from interacting with Sos. What will be the most likely consequence to that cell?

- a) The activation of Ras and the MAPK pathway will not be possible
- b) The tyrosine kinase receptors will no longer be functional
- c) The cell will not be able to respond to growth factors
- d) Grb2 will directly activate Ras

19. You have recently designed a new operon that appears to be a fusion of the Zpr regulatory region and another unknown set of genes (shown in the figure below). You have been able express it in a strain of bacteria.

Zpr regulatory region (promoter and operator)	zpr E	zpr D	zpr C	ukn a	ukn b	ukn c
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Under which of the following conditions do you expect your bacteria to be able the gene ukn b?

- a) None of the genes will be transcribed
- b) Only when Ukn's repressor is bound to the operator
- c) Only when Ukn's repressor is absent from the operator
- d) Only when Zpr's repressor is absent from the operator
- e) Only when Zpr's repressor is bound to the operator

20. Which of the following choices does not correspond to a similarity between prokaryotes and eukaryotes regarding initiation of transcription?

- a) It depends on protein recognizing consensus sequences in the promoter
- b) Chromatin must be modified for the promoter to be accessible
- c) Transcription is carried out by an RNA polymerase
- d) The 3' to 5' DNA strand is the template strand

YOU HAVE COMPLETED SECTION A

PLEASE TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE EXAM

Student number: _____

MM

Section B – General knowledge (Total 12 marks)

Please answer within the provided space – make sure your answer is clear and legible

1. Define *proton motive force* and provide an example of how the cell benefits from it. (2 marks)

- The potential energy from a gradient of ions built up across a membrane (0.5 marks)
- is used to drive an energy-dependant process. (0.5 marks) – Note: Does not necessarily have to make ATP

For example: The H⁺ ion gradient in the mitochondrial intermembrane space powers the F1 ATPase to phosphorylate ADP to ATP in matrix (1)

Or

Same in thylakoid lumen of chloroplast to produce ATP in stroma (1)

2. Explain the process by which Ras is activated. (2 marks)

- Ras is inactive when bound to GDP (0.5 marks)
- It is recruited by activated Grb2-Sos complex and binds to Sos (0.5 marks)
- This changes conformation of Ras, leading to an exchange of GDP for GTP (0.5 marks)
- GTP-bound Ras releases from Sos and is now active (0.5 marks)

3. What is a second messenger? Give a description and provide a specific example. (2 marks)

Molecules that **relay and amplify** signal (chemical messenger) to downstream effectors in the cell. (1 mark)

Examples include: IP₃, Ca²⁺, Ras, cAMP, DAG, (if other acceptable examples are provided they will be accepted). (1 mark)

4. What makes the nematode *C. Elegans* a good model to study apoptosis? Provide two reasons. (2 marks)

1 mark each for a maximum of 2 marks

- Same number of cells in each organism
- Through development, the same cells die through apoptosis
- Genes and associated proteins identified
- Homologous gene sequences
- Observation of apoptotic events (ex. Blebbing)

Student number: _____

MM

5. Name two reasons why cells use mitophagy: (2 marks)

1 mark each

a) _____ To reduce the number of mitochondria _____

b) _____ To eliminate damaged or dysfunctional mitochondria _____

6. Briefly describe two different ways cells can terminate a signal transduction cascade: (2 marks)

1 mark each

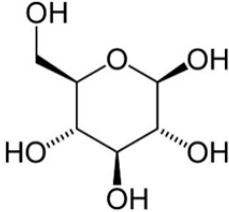
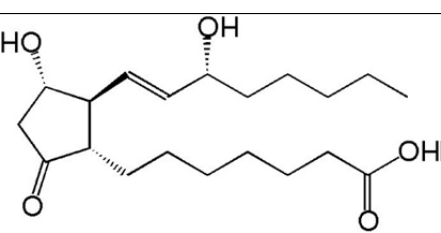
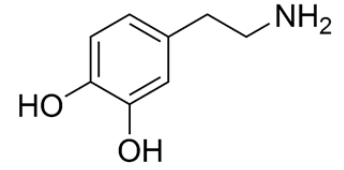
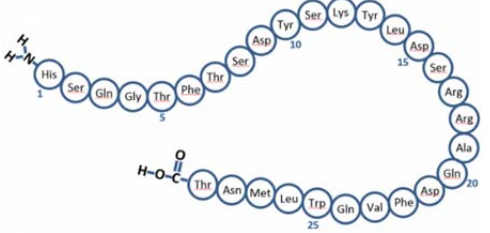
- Ligand removed /endocytosed by neighbouring tissues or cells
- Ligand digested by extracellular enzymes
- Endocytosis of ligand-receptor complex
- Inactivation of receptor (for example by changing phosphorylation state)
- Inactivation of amplifier enzyme

Student number: _____

MM

Section C –Associate (Total of 15 marks)

1. Associate the following messenger classes with their most likely communication path: (2 marks)

Messengers	Communication paths
<p>A:</p> 	1. Endocrine
<p>B:</p> 	2. Direct
<p>C:</p> 	3. Paracrine
<p>D:</p> 	4. Neuronal

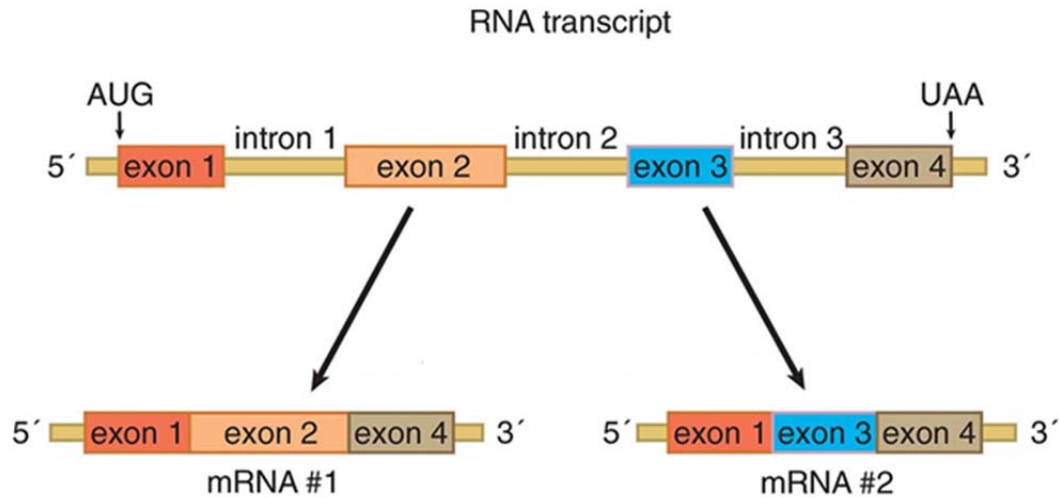
Indicate the number of the corresponding communication path for each messenger:

A: 2
B: 3
C: 1 OR 3 OR 4
D: 1

Student number: _____

MM

2. The image below represents an important mechanism in genetic expression. Name this mechanism **and** provide an explanation of all the steps that occurred to achieve mRNA#1 and mRNA#2 depicted in the diagram. (5 marks)



This is alternative splicing. (1 mark)

The pattern of splicing is dependent on the snRNPs present in the spliceosomes in the cells, because they recognize different docking (complimentary/consensus) sequences in introns. (1 mark)

A spliceosome contains snRNPs and proteins that: (0.5 marks each)

- Recognize specific sequences at the beginning and end of introns
- Cut the nucleotide bond at the exon-intron position
- Release the intron
- Ligase the exons so that the matured mRNA is a continuous sequence of coding RNA

The difference between mRNA #1 and #2 is the sequences the snRNPs recognized:

mRNA #1: intron 1, intron 2 to end of intron 3 (0.5 marks)

mRNA #2: intron 1 to end of intron 2, intron 3 (0.5 marks)

Student number: _____

MM

3. There are at least 4 post-transcriptional gene regulation mechanisms in eukaryotes. One of them involves the cell interfering with its mRNA. Name this process and explain the steps involved in this process **and** provide an example of a consequence for the cell. (5 marks)

- RNA interference (1 mark)

Maximum 4 marks from elements listed below:

- A miRNA gene is transcribed and due to high base-pairing produces a pre-miRNA that is a hairpin loop (1 mark)
- In the cytoplasm, DICER will bind this pre-miRNA, cleave the stem-loop, recruit a protein complex which contains an enzyme that degrades one of the 2 miRNA strands (1 mark)
- This forms the miRNA Induced Silencing Complex (RISC or miRISC) (1 mark)
- This miRNA has the ability to base pair with mRNA:
 - If the pairing is perfect, the mRNA will be directed to degradation – the consequence for the cell is the absence of translation of that mRNA into its protein (1 mark)
 - If the pairing is imperfect, then the mRNA will remain bound to the RISC miRNA and will eventually be released and able to convert to translation – the consequence to the cell is a delay in obtaining that protein (1 mark)

Student number: _____

MM

4. You have grown epithelial cells in culture, and some of them appear to be dying. Describe 2 manipulations that you could do experimentally and what observations each result should provide for you to be able to conclude the mechanism by which those cells are dying. (3 marks)

Mark the first 2 manipulations described.

- Microscopy (any type of phase contrast – Nomarsky, dark field) to observe structural changes to the cell membrane and / or organelles (0.5 marks)
 - condensation and blebbing would indicate apoptosis (0.5 marks)
 - swelling and membrane degradation or loss of integrity would indicate necrosis (0.5 marks)
- Fluorescent labelling of cytoplasmic proteins such as caspases or calpain and cathepsin, or complexes such as apaf-1, combined with fluorescence microscopy to quantify their presence (0.5 marks)
 - high activated caspases and apaf-1, presence of cytochrome C in cytosol would indicate apoptosis (0.5 marks)
 - calpain or cathepsin would indicate necrosis (0.5 marks)
- Measuring membrane potential (0.5 marks)
 - normal values expected for apoptosis (0.5 marks)
 - significant changes to membrane potential (higher in mitochondria, lower for cell) indicative of necrosis (0.5 marks)
- Quantification of phosphatidylserine in outer leaflet of membrane
 - Some quantity would be indicative of apoptosis (0.5 marks)
 - None would be indicative of necrosis (0.5 marks)
- Flippase activity (phospholipid translocating proteins)
 - would be indicative of apoptosis (0.5 marks)
 - no activity indicative of necrosis
- Addition of growth factor to cells or BCL2 to cytoplasm (0.5 mark)
 - Apoptosis would downregulated or eliminated therefore no cell death (infer the effect of necrosis if necrosis is mentioned) (1 mark)
- Quantification of cytosolic levels of calcium
 - Apoptosis: extremely high level in cytosol
 - Necrosis: low levels/normal of calcium

Any other feasible and plausible manipulation with predicted result is acceptable.

Student number: _____

MM

Section D – Long answer question (10 marks)

1. Naloxone is currently the favored option to counteract opioid overdose. Using your knowledge of the cAMP signalling cascade, propose a detailed explanation of how this compound can counteract the effect of opioids. (10 marks)

Maximum of 10 marks

Opioids bind to GPCRs (opioid receptors) and activate the cAMP signalling cascade;

- Opioids bind to GPCRs (1 mark)
- The activated GPCR recruits the heterotrimeric G protein (1 mark)
- The α -subunit exchanges GDP for GTP (1 mark)
- and once active releases from the other 2 g-proteins (beta and gamma) (1 mark)
- The GTP- α -subunit activates adenylate cyclase (1 mark)
- Adenylate cyclase produces cAMP (1 mark)
- When both regulatory subunits of PKA have bound cAMP the 2 activated catalytic subunits of PKA are released (1 mark)
- Activated catalytic subunits of PKA can go on to phosphorylate their downstream targets. (1 mark)

Naloxone's counteraction of opioids:

- Naloxone is a competitive antagonist of opioids (1 mark)
- and binds to the GPCR receptors with greater affinity than opioids (1 mark)
- The cAMP cascade initiated by opioids is interrupted and further opioid interaction with the receptor is prevented (1 mark)

You have completed the second midterm exam!

Student number: _____
MM

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MM

Remarking procedure: For a complete description of the remarking process, visit the BBLearn course website (Course syllabus, registrations and policies -> Asking for an exam to be remarked). All midterm/final exam remarking appeals must be handed in prior to the deadline specified to Marc Charette (GNN 281), without exception, and will be remarked by Marc Charette. Remarking can increase, decrease or result in no change to the mark originally awarded. Tips and tricks for enabling a quick and easy remark: 1. Please note that it is key to clearly identify your issue in your written statement and clearly identify the question that is to be remarked. 2. It is best achieved by referencing the statements you made on the exam with the contents of the marking scheme (e.g. I said this and the marking scheme says that). This clearly identifies your issue with the marking and generally leads to better results when remarking. Things to avoid when asking for a remark: 1. Please avoid making written statement that employs reasoning that is something to the effect of: "I feel I deserve/would like more marks", as these requests will be ignored. 2. Not providing a rational for the remarking of a question or simply asking to have the question remarked. Again, these requests will be ignored. When the remarking process is complete, you will be notified via an announcement on the course website. Therefore, please do not contact us regarding the progress of the remarking process.

REMARKING REQUESTS: