

Name _____

Period _____

An Introduction to Free Response Essays

Start time: _____ End time: _____ Total time used: _____

Suggested time: 22 minutes

Directions: Answer all questions. Answers must be in essay form. Outline form is not acceptable. Labeled diagrams may be used to supplement your response, but in no case will a diagram alone suffice. It is important that you read each question completely before you begin to write.

Organisms differ from one another and yet share common characteristics.

- a) **Select** two kingdoms and briefly describe three characteristics used to distinguish between members of one kingdom and members of the other kingdom.
- b) **Describe** three characteristics (at least one molecular and one cellular) that members of these two kingdoms share.
- c) **Propose** an explanation for the existence of similarities and differences between the two kingdoms.

** About the Free Response portion of the AP Exam information: see “Acorn” book with the exam information in it (the pdf book of AP Biology Course information—with the picture of an acorn on the front—can be downloaded at the www.apcentral.collegeboard.com website).

Try using a main-point-plus-three-supporting-details structure to organize and write your essay. The main points will be the “answer” portion to the question that was asked. In this case, the first main point will be selecting two kingdoms. Earn points for your answers by:

- a. using scientific terms correctly, in context (define terms using a supporting clause if the word is new to them this year)
- b. describing specific case examples, and never using general references (name one specific organism or a single part of the anatomy or an example of a specific behavior, or whatever the topic calls for)
- c. never simply naming something, but instead always identifying and describing something with at least a phrase or a separate descriptive sentence
- d. being sure to give an answer that responds directly to what the question is asking (in this case, one molecular and one cellular example are requested)
- e. clarifying what potential essay question terms mean before you take the exam, for instance:
 - i. What is the difference between “compare” and “contrast”?
 - ii. What would be expected for a question that asks you to “design an experiment”?

HW: Using the practice FR question craft an outline, or a list key terms, or concept map, or write the topic sentences, or any method to help you organize your thoughts in order to properly support your response.