

2002 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Biology

Section I – Part B (continued)

Marks

Question 25 (4 marks)

- (a) Define the concept of *punctuated equilibrium* in evolution. 1

Organisms changed in short rapid bursts, and this was followed by long periods of little change.

- (b) How does punctuated equilibrium differ from the process proposed by Darwin? 3

The theory of punctuated equilibrium states that organisms changed in short rapid bursts and this was followed by long periods of little change. Darwin's theory of gradual evolution stated that organisms changed gradually over time – organisms were constantly changing and evolving.