

Answer all the following questions as detail as possible:

- (1) Most enzymes are oligomeric proteins particularly the intracellular enzymes. Explain why do cells not build a large protein with several functional (catalytic) sites instead of several monomeric proteins each with one site. (6%)
- (2) Plasma membrane are important structure of cells.
 - a) Define the basic structure, components and functions of plasma membrane. (4%)
 - b) Describe the various types of active transports found in cell membranes. (3%)
 - c) Recently, inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) has found to be important second messenger from membrane lipids. Describe the signal transduction pathways involving IP₃ turnover and functions. (4%)
- (3) Plants, with some microorganisms have the glyoxylate cycle for the metabolism of acetyl-CoA. Explain why and how the cycle function in these cells. (6%)
- (4) Degradation and synthesis pathways of fatty acids are similar but not the same.
 - a) Describe both the metabolic pathways for even-numbered saturated fatty acids. (4%)
 - b) State the different enzymatic reactions of the oxidation of odd-numbered fatty acids. (2%)
 - c) Describe the control mechanism of fatty acid oxidation and synthesis. (4%)
- (5) Proteins are subjected to a process called enzyme turnover.
 - a) What is protein turnover and its biological importance in protein metabolism. (3%)
 - b) Describe the mechanism of protein turnover. (3%)
 - c) Describe the possible correlation between the rates of turnover and the structure and function of enzymes. (3%)
- (6) There are two different biosynthetic routes for nucleotides, de novo and salvage pathways.
 - a) Describe briefly about the two different pathways for the synthesis of purine nucleotides. (4%)
 - b) Explain why and how the manipulation of salvage pathways could be used in the preparation of hybridoma for the production of monoclonal antibodies. (4%)
 - c) Describe how the disease gout is related to the purine catabolism. (3%)
- (7) Conversion of the product of glycolysis, pyruvate to acetyl-CoA is catalyzed by pyruvate dehydrogenase complex, which is a kind of multienzyme systems.
 - a) Define multienzyme systems and state the advantages of these systems. (4%)
 - b) There are several coenzymes involving in the pyruvate dehydrogenase complex. Describe what are these coenzymes and their functions in pyruvate oxidation. (4%)
 - c) Control of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex involves in a reversible changes in covalent structure of this enzyme complex. Describe the control mechanism of this complex and the advantages by using this covalently modification control. (5%)

- (8) To date, radioisotopes have been widely used in the investigation of biochemical research.
- Give some basic properties of isotopes generally used in biochemical research. (2%)
 - Describe how β -emitting isotopes could be detected by liquid scintillation counter. (3%)
 - Give some biochemical techniques used by radioisotopes as tracers. (4%)
- (9) Both gluconeogenesis in animals and Calvin cycle in plants could synthesize 6-carbon sugars and finally become glycogen and amylose respectively.
- Describe the major different enzymatic reactions of these two pathways although some of the intermediates are the same. (4%)
 - Give some reasons for using CO_2 as prime carbon source in plants. (3%)
 - Will Calvin continue to proceed in dark? Explain why. (3%)
- (10) There are significant differences in the ways that messenger RNAs for protein-coding gene are produced and utilized in prokaryotic cells. Compare the differences in detail using diagrams. (15%)