

## Sample Exam INDOOR PLANTS

The correct response for each question is highlighted with the **arrow**:

1. The least serious cause of problems for our houseplants from municipal water sources is
  1. fungi contaminated water.
  - ⇒ chlorinated water.
  3. fluoridated water.
  4. hard water.
  5. soft water.
  
2. Simple layering
  1. is similar to division as an asexual propagation technique.
  2. requires a mist bed to be successful.
  3. is very suitable for plants with large diameter stems.
  - ⇒ is an ideal propagation technique for plants having many attached plantlets.
  5. produces plantlets each different in genetic makeup.
  
3. If you wanted to create a hybrid plant yourself, you would need to transfer pollen from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the male parent to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the female parent.
  1. petal, sepal
  2. leaf, flower
  - ⇒ anther, stigma
  4. ovary, stamen
  5. node, flower
  
4. When planting a shallow rooting plant that prefers a relatively dry media, which pot is best?
  - ⇒ unglazed clay "azalea" with drainage holes
  2. unglazed clay "azalea" without drainage holes
  3. glazed clay "standard" with drainage holes
  4. glazed clay "standard" without drainage holes
  5. any of the above is equally acceptable.
  
5. Which hierarchical level below would you expect the LEAST number of plants?
  1. Class
  2. Division
  3. Order
  4. Family
  - ⇒ Cultivar
  
6. Many of your newly sprouted seedlings are now laying over dead. You suspect "damping off", so you reseed; however this time you
  - ⇒ use seed treated with Thiram.
  2. soak the seeds overnight in water before sowing.
  3. wash the seeds in 100% household bleach before sowing.
  4. pasteurize the medium and container after sowing.

5. keep the temperature at 70-75°F.
7. A plant bending toward a light source is exhibiting
1. photosynthesis
  2. photo-oxidation
  3. photoperiodism
- ⇒ phototropism
5. photochlorosis
8. The "polarity" of a cutting deals with
1. making sure no flowers are attached.
  2. making sure the tip is lined up with the north pole.
- ⇒ inserting the right end in the propagation medium.
4. taking enough of the vegetative portion to insure success.
  5. None of the above
9. If your plant has "sessile" leaves
- ⇒ you must take an axillary bud with the leaf for successful propagation.
2. you must use tip cuttings to propagate it.
  3. you can forget trying to asexually propagate it.
  4. then it probably also has compound leaves.
  5. remove about half of the petiole before sticking it into the propagation bed.
10. You should use \_\_\_\_\_ to increase the water-holding-capacity of a medium, while \_\_\_\_\_ can be used to improve drainage.
1. sand, vermiculite
  2. perlite, sand
  3. perlite, vermiculite
  4. pine bark, peat moss
- ⇒ sphagnum peat moss, sand
11. A "good" general watering schedule for most indoor plants is
1. daily.
  2. about every third day.
  3. weekly.
  4. monthly.
- ⇒ There is no such thing as a "good" general watering schedule.
12. For self-pollination to occur within the same flower, the flower must be
- ⇒ a perfect flower.
2. an imperfect flower.
  3. an incomplete flower.
  4. one that lacks pistils.
  5. one that lacks stamens.
13. The least desirable light source for indoor plants is
1. sunlight.
- ⇒ incandescent light.
3. cool, white fluorescent light.
  4. warm, white fluorescent light.

5. "gro-lites".
14. Media provides all of the following for plants , EXCEPT
1. mechanical support.
  2. retention of water and nutrients.  
⇒ carbon dioxide used for photosynthesis.
  4. aeration for plant roots.
  5. support of favorable microorganisms for growth.
15. Your friend's plant has been in a very warm room at a north-facing window and no artificial light is provided; it is looking poorly. You advise your friend to move the plant to a south-facing window for the winter because
1. respiration will be halted by moving to high light conditions.  
⇒ photosynthesis can't keep up with respiration in the first location.
  3. the low light conditions will cause the plant to flower excessively.
  4. transpiration will be decreased, causing increased photosynthesis.
  5. insufficient light causes excessive photosynthesis.
16. Which of the following light wavelengths causes compact, bushy growth in plants?
1. blue  
⇒ red
  3. yellow
  4. orange
  5. green
17. \_\_\_\_\_ of the water absorbed by our houseplants is eventually lost to the atmosphere.
1. About 10%
  2. About 30%
  3. About 50%
  4. About 80%  
⇒ Almost all
18. If you are propagating a single eye cutting
- ⇒ it has an alternate leaf arrangement.
  2. it has 2 leaves plus a stem tip attached.
  3. the single leaf originally attached is removed shortly after rooting.
  4. it will produce 2 new plants.
  5. it has an opposite leaf arrangement.
19. In terms of humidity,
1. most houseplants are fussy and show symptoms from variable humidity levels.
  2. when it is a problem for houseplants, the levels are usually too high.  
⇒ air holds more water vapor as its temperature increases.
  4. greenhouses tend to be quite drier than most homes.
  5. most houseplants ideally prefer 100% relative humidity.
20. Which of the following statements is true?
1. Cultivar names should be underlined.
  2. Species names are always capitalized.

3. Common names are universally used to identify plants.
- ⇒ Genus and species names are traditionally underlined or italicized in textbooks.
5. Variety names should be highlighted in single quotes.

21. Stem tip cuttings usually root best when

1. all of the leaves are removed, because they compete with the roots for energy.
  2. they are taken from the oldest part of the plant.
  3. the plant is flowering, because the flowers supply hormones that stimulate rooting.
- ⇒ the air and medium temperature are about 75°F.
5. the medium has at least twice the nutrient content of normal media.