AP® BIOLOGY EQUATIONS AND FORMULAS

Statistical Analysis and Probability

Mean

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$$

Standard Deviation

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}}$$

Standard Error of the Mean

$$SE_{\bar{x}} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Chi-Square

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$$

Chi-Square Table

p value	Degrees of Freedom							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0.05	3.84	5.99	7.81	9.49	11.07	12.59	14.07	15.51
0.01	6.63	9.21	11.34	13.28	15.09	16.81	18.48	20.09

Laws of Probability

If A and B are mutually exclusive, then:

$$P(\text{A or B}) = P(\text{A}) + P(\text{B})$$

If A and B are independent, then:

$$P(\text{A and B}) = P(\text{A}) \times P(\text{B})$$

Hardy–Weinberg Equations

$p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$

$p + q = 1$

p = frequency of allele 1 in a population

q = frequency of allele 2 in a population

$\bar{x}$ = sample mean

n = sample size

s = sample standard deviation (i.e., the sample-based estimate of the standard deviation of the population)

o = observed results

e = expected results

$\sum$ = sum of all

Degrees of freedom are equal to the number of distinct possible outcomes minus one.

Metric Prefixes

Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10^9	giga	G
10^6	mega	M
10^3	kilo	k
10^{-1}	deci	d
10^{-2}	centi	c
10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{-12}	pico	p

Mode = value that occurs most frequently in a data set

Median = middle value that separates the greater and lesser halves of a data set

Mean = sum of all data points divided by number of data points

Range = value obtained by subtracting the smallest observation (sample minimum) from the greatest (sample maximum)

© 2025 College Board

Rate and Growth

Rate

$\frac{dY}{dt}$

dY = amount of change

dt = change in time

Population Growth

$\frac{dN}{dt} = B - D$

dN = change in population size

B = birth rate

D = death rate

Exponential Growth

$\frac{dN}{dt} = r_{max} N$

N = population size

K = carrying capacity

Logistic Growth

$\frac{dN}{dt} = r_{max} N \left(\frac{K - N}{K} \right)$

r_{max} = maximum per capita growth rate of population

Simpson's Diversity Index

Diversity Index = $1 - \sum \left(\frac{n}{N} \right)^2$

n = total number of organisms of a particular species

N = total number of organisms of all species

Water Potential (ψ)

$\psi = \psi_P + \psi_S$

ψ_P = pressure potential

ψ_S = solute potential

The water potential will be equal to the solute potential of a solution in an open container because the pressure potential of the solution in an open container is zero.

The Solute Potential of a Solution

$\psi_S = -iCRT$

i = ionization constant (1.0 for sucrose because sucrose does not ionize in water)

C = molar concentration

R = pressure constant ($R = 0.0831$ liter bars/mole K)

T = temperature in Kelvin $(°C + 273)$

Surface Area and Volume

Surface Area of a Sphere

$SA = 4\pi r^2$

Surface Area of a Rectangular Solid

$SA = 2lh + 2lw + 2wh$

Surface Area of a Cylinder

$SA = 2\pi rh + 2\pi r^2$

Surface Area of a Cube

$SA = 6s^2$

Volume of a Sphere

$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

Volume of a Rectangular Solid

$V = lwh$

Volume of a Cylinder

$V = \pi r^2 h$

Volume of a Cube

$V = s^3$

r = radius

l = length

h = height

w = width

s = length of one side of a cube

SA = surface area

V = volume

© 2025 College Board