GENERAL

44 overview of cellular respiration study guide answer key

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Introduction

Cellular respiration is the biochemical process that powers every living cell, converting nutrients into usable energy. Whether you’re a high school biology student preparing for exams or a college sophomore tackling advanced coursework, mastering the intricacies of this metabolic pathway is essential. A well structured study guide can make the difference between a good grade and a great one. This article offers a thorough review of the key concepts, a detailed answer key for a typical 44 question overview, and practical study strategies that will help you retain the information.

Why a 44 Question Overview Matters

Many biology instructors design their assessments around a set of 44 questions that cover the entire spectrum of cellular respiration. These questions test not only factual recall but also the ability to apply concepts to novel scenarios. By studying an answer key that addresses each of these questions, you can identify gaps in your knowledge and focus your revision accordingly. The answer key also serves as a benchmark for self assessment, allowing you to gauge progress and adjust study habits.

Overview of Cellular Respiration

Cellular respiration is a multi step process that occurs in three main stages: glycolysis, the citric acid (Krebs) cycle, and oxidative phosphorylation (electron transport chain and chemiosmosis). Each stage takes place in a distinct cellular compartment and involves specific enzymes and co factors.

1. Glycolysis

- Location: Cytoplasm
- Key Steps: Glucose !’ 2 Pyruvate, 2 ATP (net), 2 NADH
- Outcome: Provides substrates for the next stages and a quick burst of ATP.

2. Citric Acid Cycle (Krebs Cycle)

- Location: Mitochondrial matrix
- Key Steps: Acetyl CoA !’ CO ,, 3 NADH, 1 FADH ,, 1 GTP ("H ATP)
- Outcome: Generates high energy electron carriers for oxidative phosphorylation.

3. Oxidative Phosphorylation

- Location: Inner mitochondrial membrane
- Key Steps: Electron transport chain (ETC) !’ proton gradient !’ ATP synthase !’ ATP
- Outcome: Produces the majority of ATP (~30–32 molecules per glucose).

Key Enzymes and Co factors

Understanding the enzymes that catalyze each step is crucial for answering higher level questions. Below is a concise list of the most important enzymes:

1. Hexokinase / Glucokinase – Phosphorylates glucose at the start of glycolysis.

2. Phosphofructokinase 1 (PFK 1) – Rate limiting enzyme of glycolysis.
3. Pyruvate dehydrogenase complex – Converts pyruvate to acetyl CoA.
4. Isocitrate dehydrogenase – Key regulatory step in the Krebs cycle.
5. Complexes I–IV – Components of the ETC that shuttle electrons.
6. ATP synthase – Generates ATP using the proton motive force.

Common Themes in a 44 Question Overview

While the exact questions vary by instructor, they typically revolve around five core themes:

- Metabolic pathways and intermediates.
- Energy yield calculations.
- Regulation of respiration.
- Comparison of aerobic vs. anaerobic conditions.
- Clinical implications (e.g., metabolic disorders).

Detailed Answer Key for the 44 Question Overview

The following section provides concise, accurate answers to each typical question you might encounter. Use this as a reference when practicing or reviewing.

Question 1: What is the net ATP yield from glycolysis?

Answer: 2 ATP (4 produced, 2 consumed).

Question 2: Which enzyme is considered the rate limiting step of glycolysis?

Answer: Phosphofructokinase 1 (PFK 1).

Question 3: How many ATP molecules are produced during the citric acid cycle per glucose molecule?

Answer: 2 GTP (equivalent to 2 ATP) from the cycle itself, plus the ATP from the preceding stages.

Question 4: Describe the role of NAD z and FAD in oxidative phosphorylation.

Answer:NAD z and FAD act as electron carriers; they accept electrons during glycolysis, the Krebs cycle, and the ETC, becoming NADH and FADH ,. These reduced forms donate electrons to the ETC, driving proton pumping and ATP synthesis.

Question 5: What is chemiosmosis?

Answer: The movement of protons down their electrochemical gradient across the inner mitochondrial membrane, driving ATP synthase to produce ATP.

Question 6: How many protons are pumped per electron pair transferred through Complex III?

Answer: 2 protons are pumped per electron pair.

Question 7: Explain the difference between aerobic and anaerobic respiration.

Answer: Aerobic respiration requires oxygen as the final electron acceptor, producing up to ~30–32 ATP per glucose. Anaerobic respiration (fermentation) uses alternative acceptors like pyruvate or lactate, yielding only 2 ATP per glucose.

Question 8: What is the role of the pyruvate dehydrogenase complex?

Answer: It converts pyruvate into acetyl CoA, producing NADH and CO ,, and links glycolysis to the Krebs cycle.

Question 9: Identify the major regulatory points in the citric acid cycle.

Answer: Isocitrate dehydrogenase, ; °etoglutarate dehydrogenase, and malate dehydrogenase are key control points, regulated by ATP, NADH, and acetyl CoA levels.

Question 10: How many ATP molecules are produced by oxidative phosphorylation per glucose molecule?

Answer: Approximately 26–28 ATP (variable due to proton leak and substrate level phosphorylation).

Question 11: What is the function of the electron transport chain?

Answer: It transfers electrons from NADH and FADH , to oxygen, pumping protons to create a gradient used for ATP synthesis.

Question 12: Describe the role of the inner mitochondrial membrane.

Answer: It houses ETC complexes and ATP synthase, serving as the site for proton pumping and ATP production.

Question 13: Which intermediate is the starting point of the citric acid cycle?

Answer: Acetyl CoA combines with oxaloacetate to form citrate.

Question 14: What is the significance of the proton motive force?

Answer: It drives ATP synthesis by ATP synthase and is essential for chemiosmosis.

Question 15: Explain the concept of coupling in cellular respiration.

Answer: Coupling refers to the linkage between the energy released by electron transfer and the synthesis of ATP, ensuring efficient energy conversion.

Question 16: How does oxygen function in cellular respiration?

Answer: Oxygen is the final electron acceptor in the ETC, combining with electrons and protons to form water.

Question 17: What are the main products of anaerobic glycolysis in muscle cells?

Answer: Lactate and 2 ATP per glucose.

Question 18: Identify the enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of pyruvate to lactate.

Answer: Lactate dehydrogenase.

Question 19: What is the role of ATP synthase?

Answer: It synthesizes ATP from ADP and inorganic phosphate using the proton gradient.

Question 20: How many NADH molecules are generated per glucose molecule during glycolysis and the Krebs cycle combined?

Answer: 4 NADH (2 from glycolysis, 2 from Krebs cycle).

Question 21: Explain the link between the Krebs cycle and the electron transport chain.

Answer: The NADH and FADH , produced in the Krebs cycle feed electrons into the ETC, enabling oxidative phosphorylation.

Question 22: What is the energy yield of one NADH molecule in oxidative phosphorylation?

Answer: Approximately 2.5 ATP.

Question 23: What is the energy yield of one FADH , molecule in oxidative phosphorylation?

Answer: Approximately 1.5 ATP.

Question 24: Describe the function of the adenine nucleotide translocase (ANT).

Answer:ANT exchanges ADP and ATP across the inner mitochondrial membrane, maintaining ATP availability in the cytosol.

Question 25: What is the significance of the mitochondrial permeability transition pore (mPTP)?

Answer: Its opening can lead to cell death by collapsing the proton gradient and disrupting ATP synthesis.

Question 26: Explain the term “substrate level phosphorylation.”

Answer: Direct transfer of a phosphate group from a substrate to ADP, forming ATP, occurring in glycolysis and the Krebs cycle.

Question 27: What is the primary function of the enzyme phosphofructokinase 1 (PFK 1) in glycolysis?

Answer: It phosphorylates fructose 6 phosphate to fructose 1,6 bisphosphate, committing glucose to the glycolytic pathway.

Question 28: Identify the key difference between the electron transport chains of mitochondria and bacteria.

Answer: Bacterial ETCs may use different terminal electron acceptors (e.g., nitrate, sulfate) and lack complex I, but both create proton gradients for ATP synthesis.

Question 29: What is the role of the enzyme citrate synthase?

Answer: It catalyzes the condensation of acetyl CoA and oxaloacetate to form citrate, initiating the Krebs cycle.

Question 30: Explain how the regulation of glycolysis is influenced by cellular energy status.

Answer: High ATP and NADH levels inhibit PFK 1, while low ATP and high AMP activate it, ensuring energy production matches demand.

Question 31: What is the function of the enzyme succinate dehydrogenase?

Answer: It catalyzes the oxidation of succinate to fumarate in the Krebs cycle and also serves as Complex II in the ETC.

Question 32: Identify the primary metabolic disorder associated with pyruvate dehydrogenase deficiency.

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