



Leaving Cert Biology
Free Notes
Environmental Factors



Environmental Factors that affect organisms

Climatic

These are the average climate (weather) conditions that affect the community and influence the life and distribution of the organisms that live in a particular environment. Climatic Factors include:

- Temperature
- Rainfall
- Humidity
- Wind
- Light intensity (including seasonal variations)
- Day Length

Biotic

These are living factors/features of an ecosystem that affect the other members of the community. Biotic factors include:

- Competitors
- Decomposers
- Parasites and pathogens
- Pollinators
- Prey
- Plants for food and shelter
- Predators

Abiotic

These are non-living factors of an ecosystem such as the physical and chemical conditions that affect the community. Abiotic factors include:

- Humidity
- pH
- Dissolved oxygen
- Water current
- Air Speed
- Nitrate, phosphate and other plant nutrients
- Salinity
- Temperature
- Light intensity

Edaphic

These are the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the soil that influence the community. Edaphic factors include:

- Soil type
- Humus

- Air and mineral content
- Soil pH
- Available (soil) water
- Soil texture and structure

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