



**Leaving Cert Biology**

**Free Notes**

**Ecology Definitions**

## Ecology Definition

<b>Abiotic (factors)</b>	<b>Non-living (factors)</b>
<b>Adaptation</b>	<b>Feature that helps organism survive in its environment</b>
<b>Adverse external environment</b>	<b>Surroundings that are harmful to an organism</b>
<b>Autotrophic</b>	<b>Makes its own food from inorganic material</b>
<b>Biosphere</b>	<b>Parts of earth that support life (NOT global ecosystem)</b>
<b>Biotic Factor</b>	<b>Living organism's influence on another organism (NOT examples)</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>All the organisms living in an area</b>
<b>Competition</b>	<b>Struggle between organisms for resource / in short supply</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>The wise management of / the environment or of organisms</b>
<b>Contest (competition)</b>	<b>One organism loses (or gets) / all the resource</b>
<b>Data</b>	<b>Measurements or observations or information gathered</b>
<b>Decomposers</b>	<b>(Micro)organisms / that return nutrients to the environment / by decay</b>
<b>Denitrification</b>	<b>Converting nitrates to atmospheric nitrogen by denitrifying bacteria</b>
<b>Detritus</b>	<b>Decaying vegetation</b>
<b>Ecology</b>	<b>Study of interrelationships between plants, animals &amp; their environment</b>
<b>Ecosystem</b>	<b>Organisms / and their interactions with the environment</b>
<b>Edaphic</b>	<b>To do with soil</b>
<b>Edaphic factor</b>	<b>Soil factor</b>
<b>Fauna</b>	<b>Animals (NOT examples)</b>
<b>Flora</b>	<b>Plants (NOT examples)</b>
<b>Food Chain</b>	<b>One species at each trophic level</b>
<b>Food Web</b>	<b>Interconnected food chains or more than one species at each trophic level</b>
<b>Germination</b>	<b>Growth of seed or embryo</b>
<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Place where a species / lives</b>
<b>Heterotrophic</b>	<b>Obtains food from other organisms <b>or</b> does not make its own food</b>
<b>Key</b>	<b>A guide to / identification</b>
<b>Niche</b>	<b>Role of organism / in an ecosystem</b>
<b>Nitrification</b>	<b>Ammonia to nitrites (or to nitrates) <b>or</b> nitrites to nitrates</b>
<b>Nitrogen fixation</b>	<b>Atmospheric N<sub>2</sub> / converted to compound</b>
<b>Omnivore</b>	<b>Eats plants and animals</b>
<b>Parasitic</b>	<b>Living in or on another species / <u>causing harm</u></b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>Any harmful addition / to the environment</b>

<b>Population</b>	<b>All the members of a <u>species</u> living in an area</b>
<b>Predation</b>	<b>Killing (or catching) / and eating / another <u>animal</u></b>
<b>Predator</b>	<b>Animal that kills / and eats / other animals</b>
<b>Prey</b>	<b>Animal that is killed / and eaten</b>
<b>Producer</b>	<b>Organism that makes its own food (from inorganic materials)</b>
<b>Pyramid of Numbers</b>	<b>Diagram that shows numbers of organisms at each trophic level</b>
<b>Qualitative (Survey)</b>	<b><u>Types</u> (or Species) of organisms present</b>
<b>Quantitative</b>	<b><u>Numbers</u> of individuals (of a species) present</b>
<b>Saprophytic</b>	<b>Living on / dead organisms (organic matter)</b>
<b>Scramble Competition</b>	<b>Each organism gets / some of resource</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Group of organism who interbreed and produce fertile offspring</b>
<b>Symbiosis</b>	<b>Relationship between different species in which at least one benefits</b>
<b>Trophic level</b>	<b>Feeding level or energy level <b>or</b> position in food chain</b>

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