AP® Biology
2016 Scoring Guidelines

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Question 1

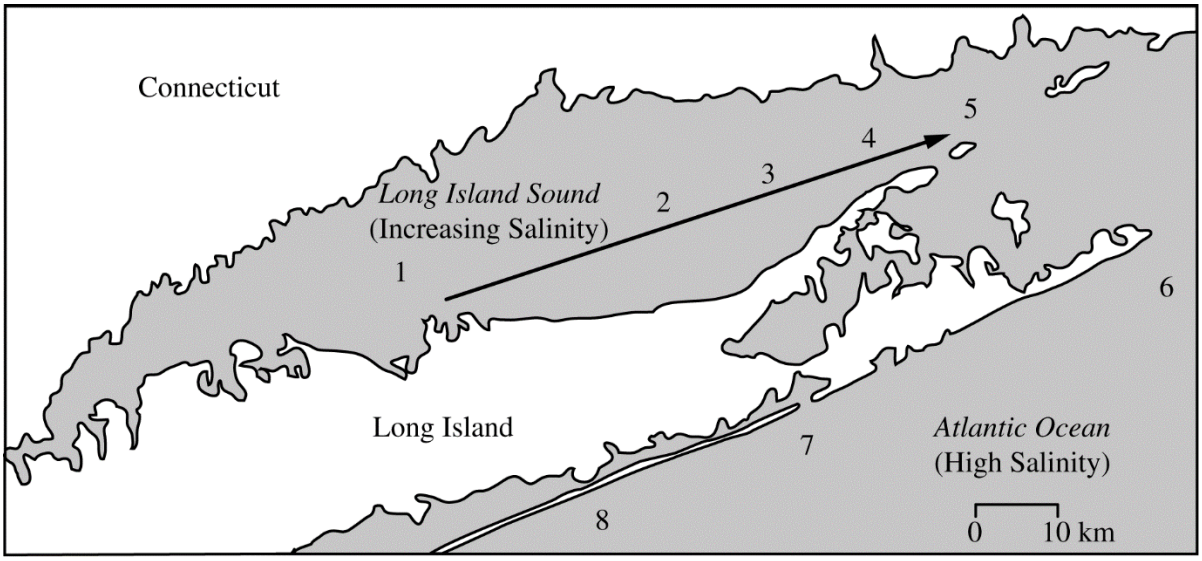

Figure 1. Sampling sites of marine mussels at various locations (1-8) in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean

TABLE 1. PERCENT OF INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING *lap*^{94} ALLELE

	Long Island Sound					Atlantic Ocean		
Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
lap^{94} frequency (%)	13	16	25	37	55	59	59	59
Salinity	Low	→			High	High		

Leucine aminopeptidases (LAPs) are found in all living organisms and have been associated with the response of the marine mussel, *Mytilus edulis*, to changes in salinity. LAPs are enzymes that remove N-terminal amino acids from proteins and release the free amino acids into the cytosol. To investigate the evolution of LAPs in wild populations of *M. edulis*, researchers sampled adult mussels from several different locations along a part of the northeast coast of the United States, as shown in Figure 1. The researchers then determined the percent of individuals possessing a particular *lap* allele, *lap*^{94}, in mussels from each sample site (table 1).

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Question 1 (continued)

(a) On the axes provided, **construct** an appropriately labeled bar graph to illustrate the observed frequencies of the *lap*^{94} allele in the study populations. **(3 points)**

Construct graph (3 points)

- Correctly plotted bar graph that accurately represents the trend
- Correct axis labeling
- Correct scale and units

(b) Based on the data, **describe** the most likely effect of salinity on the frequency of the *lap*^{94} allele in the marine mussel populations in Long Island Sound. **Predict** the likely *lap*^{94} allele frequency at a sampling site between site 1 and site 2 in Long Island Sound. **(2 points)**

Description (1 point)	**Prediction (1 point)**
• As salinity increases *lap*^{94} frequency increases • As salinity decreases *lap*^{94} frequency decreases	Between 13 and 16 percent (or a selected value between 13 and 16 percent)

(c) **Describe** the most likely effect of LAP^{94} activity on the osmolarity of the cytosol. **Describe** the function of LAP^{94} in maintaining water balance in the mussels living in the Atlantic Ocean. **(2 points)**

Describe effect of LAP^{94} activity (1 point)	**Describe function of LAP^{94} in maintaining water balance (1 point)**
• LAP^{94} increases osmolarity/solute concentration of the cytosol • LAP^{94} decreases water potential of the cytosol	Prevents water loss to the environment

(d) Marine mussel larvae are evenly dispersed throughout the study area by water movement. As larvae mature, they attach to the rocks in the water. **Explain** the differences in *lap*^{94} allele frequency among adult mussel populations at the sample sites despite the dispersal of larvae throughout the entire study area. **Predict** the likely effect on distribution of mussels in Long Island Sound if the *lap*^{94} allele was found in all of the mussels in the population. **Justify** your prediction. **(3 points)**

Explanation (1 point)	**Prediction (1 point)**	**Justification (1 point)**
• Mussels with *lap*^{94} allele are more likely to survive in high salinity/less likely to survive in low salinity. • Mussels without *lap*^{94} allele are less likely to survive in high salinity/more likely to survive in low salinity.	• Mussel population will increase in high salinity. • Mussel population will decline in low salinity.	• Mussels in high salinity with *lap*^{94} allele will osmoregulate. • Mussels in low salinity with *lap*^{94} allele will not osmoregulate.

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Question 2

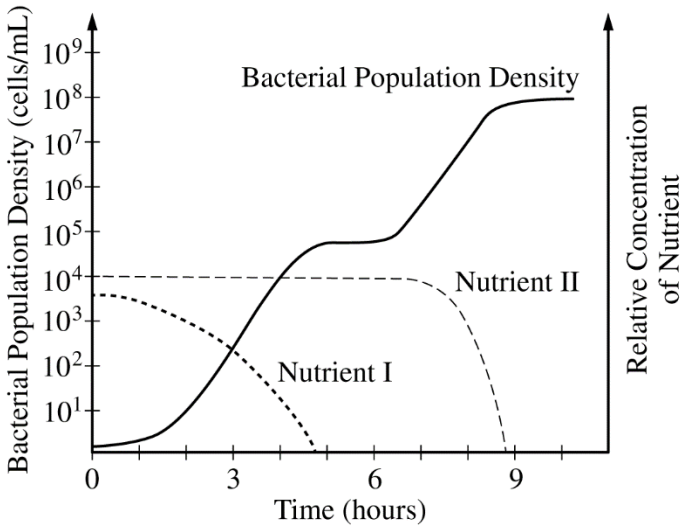

Figure 1. Bacterial population growth in the presence of two nutrients (nutrient I and nutrient II)

Bacteria can be cultured in media with carefully controlled nutrient composition. The graph above shows the growth of a bacterial population in a medium with limiting amounts of two nutrients, I and II.

(a) **Estimate** the maximum population density in $\frac{\text{cells}}{\text{mL}}$ for the culture. Using the data, **describe** what prevents further growth of the bacterial population in the culture. **(2 points)**

Estimate (1 point)

- 10^8

Description (1 point)

- When both nutrients are depleted

(b) Using the data, **calculate** the growth rate in $\frac{\text{cells}}{\text{mL}\times\text{hour}}$ of the bacterial population between hours 2 and 4. **(1 point)**.

Calculation (1 point)

- 4,995

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Question 2 (continued)

(c) **Identify** the preferred nutrient source of the bacteria in the culture over the course of the experiment. Use the graph to **justify** your response. **Propose** ONE advantage of the nutrient preference for an individual bacterium. **(3 points)**

Identification (1 point)

- Nutrient I is the preferred nutrient.

Justification (1 point)

- When both nutrients are present in the growth medium, only nutrient I is used.
- Nutrient II is only used after nutrient I is depleted.

Proposed advantage (1 point)

- Do not spend energy making enzymes/proteins that the cell doesn't need.
- Do not have to express all metabolic genes at once.
- The preferred nutrient provides more energy.

(d) **Describe** how nutrient I most likely regulates the genes for metabolism of nutrient I <u>and</u> the genes for metabolism of nutrient II. **Provide** TWO reasons that the population does not grow between hours 5 and 6. **(4 points)**

Description (2 points)

- Nutrient I promotes expression of genes required for metabolism of nutrient I.
- Nutrient I represses expression of genes required for metabolism of nutrient II.

Reasoning (2 points)

- Nutrient I is depleted from the growth medium OR neither nutrient is being consumed.
- Takes time to produce proteins/enzymes required to metabolize nutrient II.

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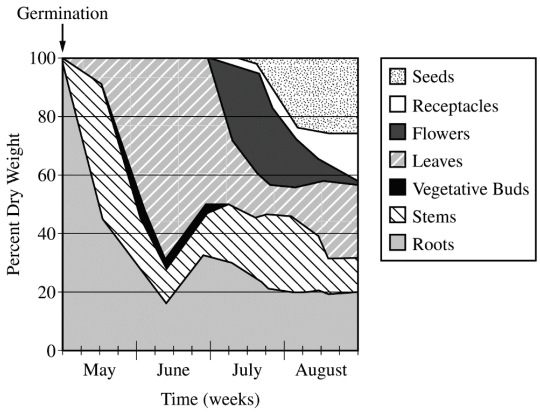

Figure 1. Percent dry weight of different plant structures during the growing season for an annual plant

The graph above illustrates the percent dry weight of different parts of a particular annual plant (plants that live less than one year) from early May to late August. The percent dry weight can be used to estimate the amount of energy a plant uses to produce its leaves, vegetative buds, stems, roots, and reproductive parts (seeds, receptacles, and flowers).

(a) **Identify** the direct source of the energy used for plant growth during the first week of May, and **identify** the part of the plant that grew the most during the same period. **(2 points)**

Identify direct source of energy (1 point)

- Seed
- Stored organic nutrients/carbohydrates

Identify plant part (1 point)

- Roots

(b) Based on the data on the graph, **estimate** the percent of the total energy that the plant has allocated to the growth of leaves on the first day of July. **(1 point)**

Identification (1 point)

- Any value between 45-55 percent

(c) Compared with perennials (plants that live more than two years), annual plants often allocate a much greater percentage of their total energy to growth of their reproductive parts in any given year. **Propose** ONE evolutionary advantage of the energy allocation strategy in annual plants compared with that in perennial plants. **(1 point)**

Proposed advantage (1 point)

- Increased chance of reproduction before the plants die.
- If the plants do not use the strategy, they decrease the likelihood they will ever reproduce.

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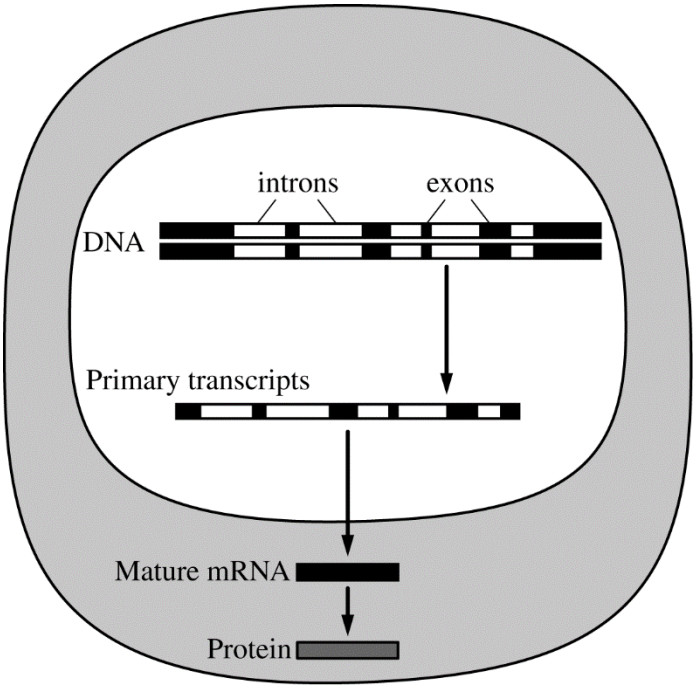

The figure represents the process of expression of gene *X* in a eukaryotic cell.

(a) The primary transcript in the figure is 15 kilobases (kb) long, but the mature mRNA is 7 kb in length. **Describe** the modification that most likely resulted in the 8 kb difference in length of the mature mRNA molecule. **Identify** in your response the location in the cell where the change occurs. **(2 points)**

Describe process (1 point)

- Removal of introns
- RNA processing

Identification (1 point)

- Nucleus

(b) **Predict** the length of the mature gene *X* mRNA if the full-length gene is introduced and expressed in prokaryotic cells. **Justify** your prediction. **(2 points)**

Prediction (1 point)

- 15 kb
- Longer than the mature mRNA in the eukaryote

Justification (1 point)

- mRNA processing typically does not occur in prokaryotes

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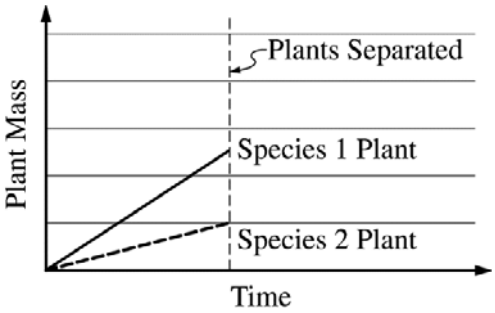
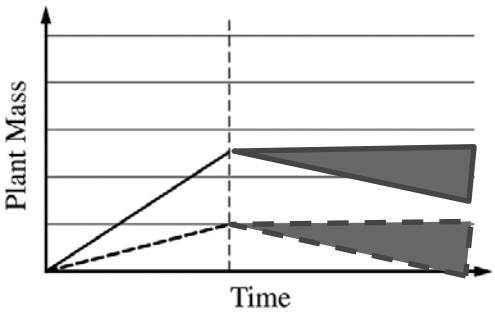
Question 5



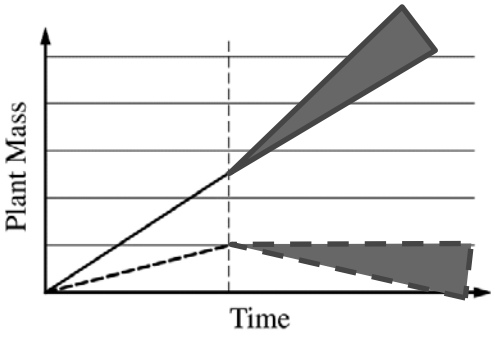
The graph above shows the mass of plants from two different species over time. The plants grew while attached to each other. The plants were separated at the time indicated by the vertical line in the graph.

Using template 1, **graph** the predicted shape of the plant-mass lines after separation of the two plants if the plants were in an obligate mutualistic relationship. On template 2, **graph** the predicted shape of the plant-mass lines if the species 2 plant was a parasite of the species 1 plant. **Justify** each of your predictions. **(4 points)**

TEMPLATE 1: OBLIGATE MUTUALISM



TEMPLATE 2: PARASITISM



	Graph characteristics (1 point each graph; 2 points maximum)	**Justification (1 point each box; 2 points maximum)**
Obligate Mutualism	Both of the growth curves level off or decline.	• Each species depends on the other for survival. • Without the relationship, both species are harmed.
Parasitism	Species 1 continues to increase while species 2 levels off or declines.	• The parasite requires an association with the host to survive but harms the host. • Without the relationship, the parasite cannot survive while the host continues to grow.

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Question 6

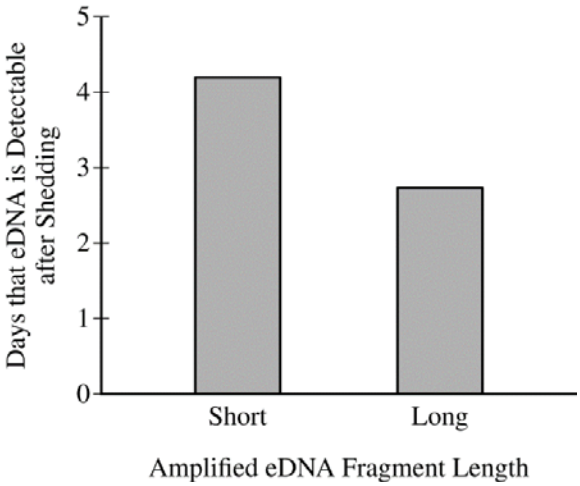

Figure 1. Detectability of eDNA fragments of varying lengths

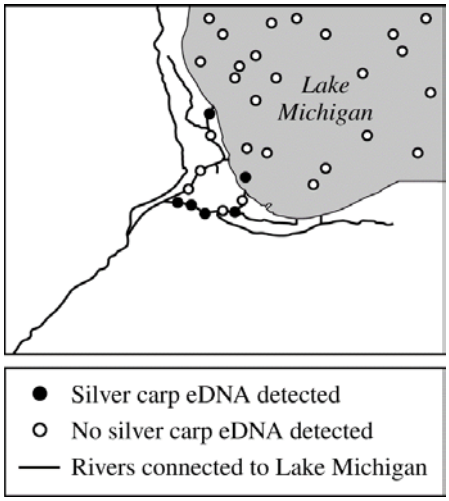

Figure 2. Map of the waterways that connect a nearby river system to Lake Michigan

Living and dead organisms continuously shed DNA fragments, known as eDNA, into the environment. To detect eDNA fragments in the environment, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can be used to amplify specific eDNA fragments. eDNA fragments of different lengths persist in the environment for varying amounts of time before becoming undetectable (Figure 1).

To investigate whether silver carp, an invasive fish, have moved from a nearby river system into Lake Michigan, researchers tested water samples for the presence of eDNA specific to silver carp (Figure 2).

(a) **Justify** the use of eDNA sampling as an appropriate technique for detecting the presence of silver carp in an environment where many different species of fish are found. **Propose** ONE advantage of identifying long eDNA fragments as opposed to short fragments for detecting silver carp. **(2 points)**

Justify (1 point)

- eDNA allows detection of the fish without visual identification/catching the fish.

Proposed advantage (1 point)

- Longer fragments indicate <u>more</u> recent presence of fish.
- Longer fragments are more likely to contain a sequence that is specific to silver carp.
- Longer sequences/more base pairs may increase accuracy/specificity/confidence that the eDNA is from a silver carp and not a related species.

(b) The researchers tested a large number of water samples from Lake Michigan and found eDNA specific to silver carp in a single sample in the lake, as indicated in Figure 2. The researchers concluded that the single positive sample was a false positive and that no silver carp had entered Lake Michigan. **Provide reasoning** other than human error to support the researchers' claim. **(1 point)**

Reasoning (1 point)

- eDNA entered the lake by means other than the fish (e.g., river flow, boats, waste from predators).

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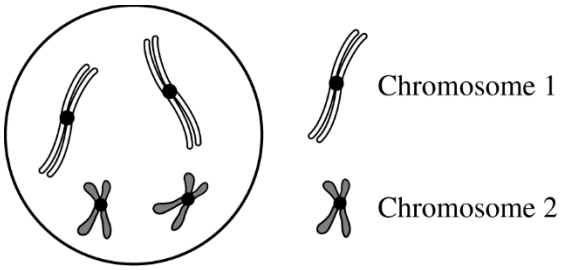
Question 7

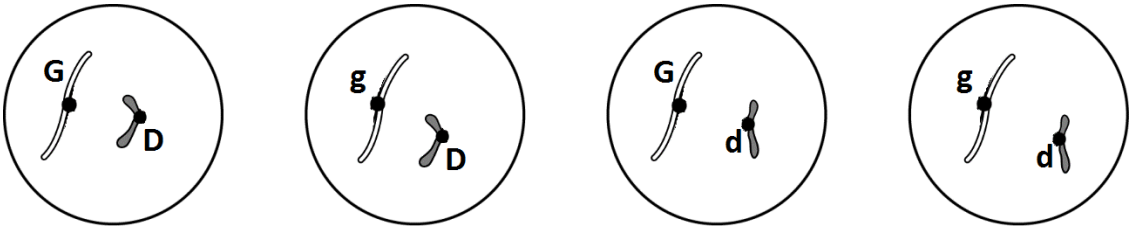


In a certain species of plant, the diploid number of chromosomes is 4 (2n = 4). Flower color is controlled by a single gene in which the green allele (*G*) is dominant to the purple allele (*g*). Plant height is controlled by a different gene in which the dwarf allele (*D*) is dominant to the tall allele (*d*). Individuals of the parental (P) generation with the genotypes *GGDD* and *ggdd* were crossed to produce F_1 progeny.

(a) **Construct** a diagram below to depict the four possible normal products of meiosis that would be produced by the F_1 progeny. Show the chromosomes and the allele(s) they carry. Assume the genes are located on different chromosomes and the gene for flower color is on chromosome 1. **(1 point)**

Construct diagram (1 point)

- Diagram must include all of the following:
  - Each cell has one unduplicated chromosome 1 (with G or g).
  - Each cell has one unduplicated chromosome 2 (with D or d).
  - Genotype combinations should be: GD, Gd, gD, gd.



(b) **Predict** the possible phenotypes and their ratios in the offspring of a testcross between an F_1 individual and a *ggdd* individual. **(1 point)**

Prediction (1 point)

- 1 green dwarf: 1 green tall: 1 purple dwarf: 1 purple tall

(c) If the two genes were genetically linked, **describe** how the proportions of phenotypes of the resulting offspring would most likely differ from those of the testcross between an F_1 individual and a *ggdd* individual. **(1 point)**

Identify difference (1 point)

- The majority/greater than 50 percent would have the parental plant phenotypes
- Greater than 25 percent would be green dwarf plants and greater than 25 percent would be purple tall plants
- Less than 25 percent would be green tall plants and less than 25 percent would be purple dwarf plants

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Question 8

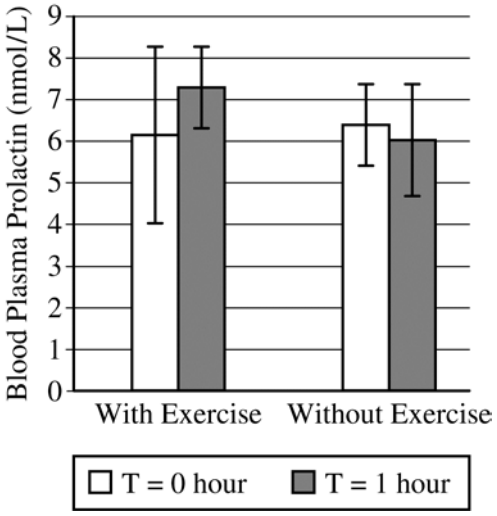

Figure 1. Effect of exercise on blood prolactin levels in adult males. The data represent the mean $\pm 2SE_{\bar{X}}$.

Researchers conducted a study to investigate the effect of exercise on the release of prolactin into the blood. The researchers measured the concentration of prolactin in the blood of eight adult males before (T = 0 hour) and after one hour (T = 1 hour) of vigorous exercise. As a control, the researchers measured the concentration of blood prolactin in the same group of individuals at the same times of day one week later, but without having them exercise. The results are shown in Figure 1.

(a) **Justify** the use of the without-exercise treatment as the control in the study design. **(1 point)**

Justification (1 point)

- Attribute changes in the concentration of blood prolactin to exercise only
- Rule out normal fluctuations in prolactin release/levels

(b) Using evidence from the specific treatments, **determine** whether prolactin release changes after exercise. **Justify** your answer. **(2 points)**

Determination (1 point)

- Exercise does not affect prolactin release

Justification (1 point)

- The T=1 hour with-exercise mean and the T=1 hour without-exercise mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{X}}$.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{X}}$ error bars for the T=1 hour with-exercise time point and the T=1 hour time without-exercise point overlap.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{X}}$ error bars for the T=0 and T=1 hour with-exercise time points overlap.
- The T=0 hour with-exercise mean and the T=1 hour with exercise-mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{X}}$.

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