(2)

Parasitism and Mutualism

The **survival** of some species completely **depends** on **another species**. This dependence is illustrated by either a **parasitic** relationship or a **mutualistic** relationship.

Parasitic Relationships.

In this type of relationship one species **benefits** and the other species **often suffers**. The species that benefits is called the **parasite** and the species that suffers is called the **host**.

The parasite lives **in** or **on** the host and takes what it **needs to survive** without giving anything back. This often **harms** the host.

Examples of Parasites.

Fleas – live in the fur and bedding of animals, including **humans**.

They **feed** by **sucking the blood** of their host and can reproduce quickly.

The host **gains nothing** from having fleas.

Head Lice - these are insects that live on **human scalps**. They suck the blood for **food** and make the person **itch**.

Tapeworms – attach themselves to the wall of the **intestine** of the host.

They absorb lots of **nutrients** from the **host's gut** causing them to suffer **malnutrition** and **lose weight**. Tapeworms can grow so large they **block** the host's intestines, which prevents the host from digesting its food causing further malnutrition and weight loss.

Mistletoe – is a **parasitic plant** that grows on **trees and shrubs**. Its leaves can photosynthesise, but is roots grow into the host tree. The roots absorbs **water** and **nutrients** from the host, which can **reduce** the **host's growth**.

Q1. In the human-head lice feeding relationship name with a reason :

a) the parasite is the head Lice because that is they suck human blood ~~for food.~~ digested food as the head lices food.

b) the host. the human is the host because it gains noting from head lice but it suffers because it the human has a itch head.