ABIOTIC AND BIOTIC FEATURES OF THE RAINFOREST

Q. 1 Complete the table below

Observer's Name	
Date	
Location of study site	
Topography of study site eg undulating, flat, hilly	
Latitude (^{0} S)	**19^0 0'**
Longitude (^{0} E)	**146^0 15'**
Altitude (metres above sea level)	
Mean annual rainfall (mm)	**> 2000mm**
Parent rock underlying the soil	
Soil depth (check a road cutting)	**< 1m**

Q. 2 Complete the table below for two separate sites, one out in the open and one inside the forest. At these same sites, collect your soil samples for Activity 4. Readings from each group will be collated back in the classroom.

GROUP	TIME	LIGHT INTENSITY		TEMPERATURE		RELATIVE HUMIDITY		WIND SPEED	
		Forest	Open	Forest	Open	Forest	Open	Forest	Open
1									
2									
3									
Instrument used to measure									

BIOTIC (LIVING) FEATURES OF THE RAINFOREST

Q. 3 Complete the list below

Canopy
Average height of canopy (m) ……..
Canopy cover (%) ……..
Average height of emergents (m) ……

Q. 4 Choose one in each set and ✔

Canopy is
- More or less smooth and even (excluding emergents) ?
- Fairly uneven (emergents not generally obvious) ?
- Very broken (in places desends to near ground level ?

Uniformity of **stems of main canopy trees**

- Girth sizes of canopy trees mostly equal (pole forest - possible disturbance to forest by logging)
- Girth sizes of canopy trees unequal throughout

Q. 4 continued

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Choose one in each set and ✔

Prominence of different **tree layers** (excluding emergents)

- One layer obvious
- Two layers obvious
- More than two structural layers in the forest

Density of **ground cover** in the forest (vegetation below 3m in height)

- Uniform and sparse
- Uniform and dense
- Clumped and sparse
- Clumped and dense
- Absent, or nearly so

If present, **ground cover** is mostly composed of ……

(for example, grass, fern, moss, vines, fallen, seedlings)

Q. 5 ✔ those below that you have observed, either on the bus trips up and back, or during the day's excursion.

Evidence of disturbance to the rainforest

- Canopy gaps/ very broken canopy as a results of storms/ cyclones
- Wind-shearing and streamlining of tree tops
- Partial clearing
- Total clearing
- Ring-barking
- Selective logging
- Tracks
- Tin-mining
- Grazing by domestic/ feral animals
- Fire
- Digging by animals
- Dead or dying trees
- Pioneer species (rainforest trees that regrow first after any disturbance eg wattles, sarsparilla)
- Grasses
- Other noticeable effects of disturbance ……