

2025 Bi H1 Q25

Section: Sustainability and Interdependence

Topic: Threats to Biodiversity

Question Summary:

Grey squirrels were introduced into the UK from North America more than 100 years ago. They have spread rapidly. You are asked why they are described as an **invasive species**.

Worked Solution:

An **invasive species** is one that:

- has been **introduced** intentionally or accidentally,
- becomes **established** in natural habitats, and
- spreads rapidly, often harming native species.

Assess each option:

A: “Introduced from outside the UK” — this is true, but it only describes a **non-native species**, not necessarily an invasive one. **✗**

B: “Have become established within natural habitats” — this is a key feature of **invasive species**. **✓**

C: “Eliminated native red squirrels in many areas” — this is a **consequence** of being invasive, not the defining criterion. **✗**

D: “Occupy the same habitat as native red squirrels” — simply sharing a habitat does not make a species invasive. **✗**

Therefore, the defining reason grey squirrels are described as invasive is that they have **become established in natural habitats** and spread rapidly.

Final Answer: B

Revision Tips:

- A **non-native species** is not necessarily invasive.
- An **invasive species** must spread rapidly and become established in natural habitats.
- Invasives often outcompete native species but this is an effect, not the definition.
- Examples: grey squirrel, Japanese knotweed, American mink.