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A student did an experiment to investigate growth in plants. He took 5 seeds and planted them in some compost. They were planted outdoors within 1 square meter

Plant Number	Height (cm)				Growth rate cm/day
	Day 2	Day 4	Day 6	Day 8	
1	2.5	4.0	5.0	6.4	
2	2.0	3.5	4.5	5.6	0.7
3	1.5	2.3	3.0	3.2	0.4
4	2.5	3.5	4.2	4.8	0.6
5	0.5	0.9	1.4	1.6	0.2

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Calculate the mean growth rate per day for plant number 1.

[2 marks]

_____ Mean growth rate = _____ cm/day

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The lowest growth rate recorded by the student was for plant number 5

Give two environmental factors that may have caused plant number 5 to have the lowest growth rate

[2 marks]

Factor 1 _____

Factor 2 _____

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Suggest a factor other than an environmental one which might have caused the plant to have the lowest growth rate

[1 mark]

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Height of the plant may not be the best measure of growth of the plants in the experiment.

Suggest why

[1 mark]

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The temperatures in the desert can reach up to 60 degrees C with the sand reaching even higher temperatures. The Sahara desert ant is well adapted to survive

Scientists describe the ants as **extremophiles**

What is meant by the term **extremophile**

[2 marks]

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Here are some facts about the ants.

- * they deliberately come out at the hottest point in the day to eat insects which have died from the heat exposure
- * they only stay out for short periods
- * they have long legs and move easily across the sand

Explain why these features help the ant to survive

[4 marks]
