

This is the **Higher Combined** version — includes Higher Tier content. Some Separate-only details are omitted.

An ecosystem consists of all the organisms living in an area along with the non-living environment they interact with.

- Population: all individuals of ONE species in a given area at a given time.
- Community: ALL populations of different species living together in an area.
- Ecosystem: a community of organisms plus the physical (abiotic) environment they interact with.
- Habitat: the specific environment where an organism lives (e.g. pond, woodland, grassland).
- Stable community: a community where species populations remain roughly constant because biotic and abiotic factors are balanced.
- Interdependence: all organisms in a community depend on other species for food, shelter, pollination, seed dispersal, etc.
- Change in one species affects others — e.g. removing a predator increases prey numbers → increased competition among prey species.

Key Terms

Population	All individuals of one species in a defined area
Community	All populations of different species living in the same area
Ecosystem	A community of organisms and the non-living environment they interact with
Habitat	The physical environment where an organism lives
Interdependence	The reliance of organisms in a community on each other for survival

■ **Exam Tip:** Know the difference between population (one species), community (many species), ecosystem (community + non-living environment). These definitions are often tested as 1-mark questions.