

- 9 The coffee husks, shown in the photograph, are a waste product of coffee plantations.

Composting has been suggested as an environmentally friendly way of decomposing these coffee husks.



The effect of adding cow dung to coffee husks, before they are composted, has been investigated.

The table shows the percentages of organic carbon and nitrogen in two compost heaps at the start of composting and after 90 days.

	Husks alone		Husks with added cow dung	
	0	90	0	90
Days composting	0	90	0	90
Organic carbon (%)	54.50	41.70	48.10	35.40
Nitrogen (%)	1.84	2.31	2.76	3.19

- (a) Comment on the effect of adding cow dung to composting coffee husks.

(3)



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

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*(b) The changes in the compost heaps are due to the activity of decomposers and other organisms.

Devise an investigation to determine the effect of the carbon to nitrogen ratio on the succession of species in these compost heaps.

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(Total for Question 9 = 9 marks)

