



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

Communicable diseases

Level: GCSE AQA 8461

Subject: Biology

Exam Board: Suitable for all boards

Topic: Communicable diseases

Level: Hard

This is to be used by all students preparing for AQA Biology 8461 foundation or higher tier but it is also suitable for students of other boards



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Q1. White blood cells protect the body against pathogens such as bacteria and viruses.

(a) (i) Pathogens make us feel ill.

Give **one** reason why.

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(1)

(ii) White blood cells produce antibodies. This is one way white blood cells protect us against pathogens.

Give **two** other ways that white blood cells protect us against pathogens.

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2.....
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(2)

(b) Vaccination can protect us from the diseases pathogens cause.

(i) One type of virus causes measles.

A doctor vaccinates a child against measles.

What does the doctor inject into the child to make the child immune to measles?

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(2)

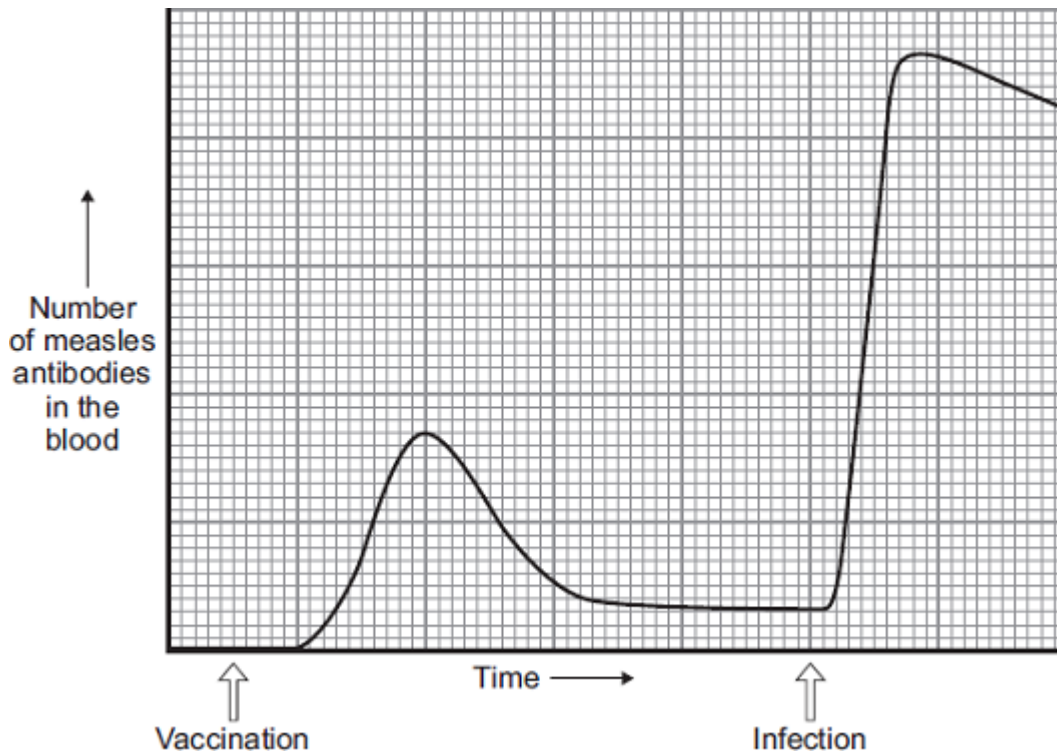
(ii) A few weeks after the vaccination, the child becomes infected with measles viruses from another person.



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The graph shows the number of measles antibodies in the child's blood from before the vaccination until after the infection.



More measles antibodies are produced after the infection than after the vaccination.

Describe other differences in antibody production after infection compared with after vaccination.

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(3)

(iii) Vaccination against the measles virus will **not** protect the child against the rubella virus.

Why?



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(1)

- (c) What is the advantage of vaccinating a large proportion of the population against measles?

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(1)

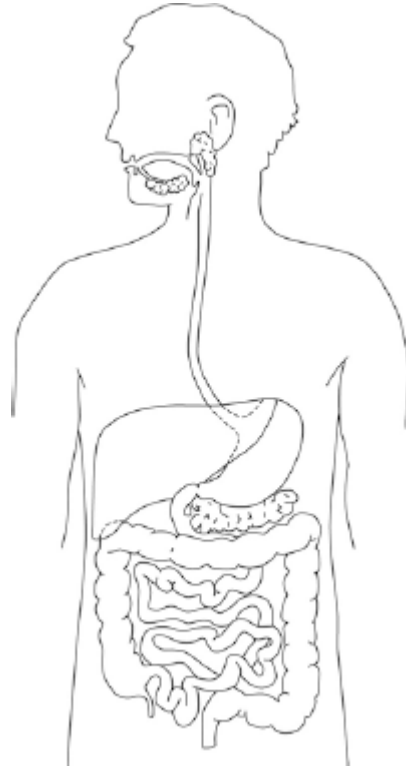
(Total 10 marks)



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Q2. The diagram below shows the human digestive system.



(a) Label the stomach and pancreas on the diagram.

(1)

(b) Many people suffer from stomach ulcers caused by a species of bacteria called *Helicobacter pylori*.

The stomach is lined with a protective lining of mucus.

Helicobacter pylori are acid-tolerant bacteria which can damage this mucus lining.

Suggest how an infection with *Helicobacter pylori* might result in a stomach ulcer developing.

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(2)



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- (c) *Helicobacter pylori* can also cause stomach cancer.

Describe how a person infected with *Helicobacter pylori* could also develop liver cancer.

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(3)

- (d) Gluten is a form of protein found in some grains.

Describe the test you would use to find out if protein is present in food.

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(2)

- (e) Coeliac disease is a disease of the digestive system.

It damages the lining of the small intestine when foods that contain gluten are eaten.

When people with coeliac disease eat foods that contain gluten:

1. their immune system forms antibodies to gluten
2. these antibodies attack the lining of the small intestine
3. this causes inflammation in the intestines and damages the villi.

Symptoms of coeliac disease include poor growth.

Suggest why a person with coeliac disease might have this symptom.



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(4)
(Total 12 marks)



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(2)
(Total 7 marks)



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Q3. Scientists have discovered that curry spices affect sheep and cattle. Curry spices can reduce the amount of methane that grazing animals give off.

'Bad' bacteria in the animal's stomach produce methane. About 12% of the animal's food is changed into methane.

The curry spice coriander works like an antibiotic. Adding coriander to animal food reduces methane production by about 40%.

(a) (i) Why does adding coriander to an animal's food reduce methane production?

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(1)

(ii) Explain **one** advantage to a farmer of adding coriander to the animal's food.

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(2)

(b) Farm animals give off large amounts of methane.

Explain the effects of adding large amounts of methane to the atmosphere.

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(3)

(Total 6 marks)



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Q4. Some diseases can be cured by using antibiotics or prevented by vaccination.

(a) (i) Explain fully why antibiotics cannot be used to cure viral diseases.

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(2)

(ii) There has been a large increase in the populations of many antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria in recent years.

Explain why.

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(2)

(b) A person can be immunised against a disease by injecting them with an inactive form of a pathogen.

Explain how this makes the person immune to the disease.

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(3)

(Total 7 marks)



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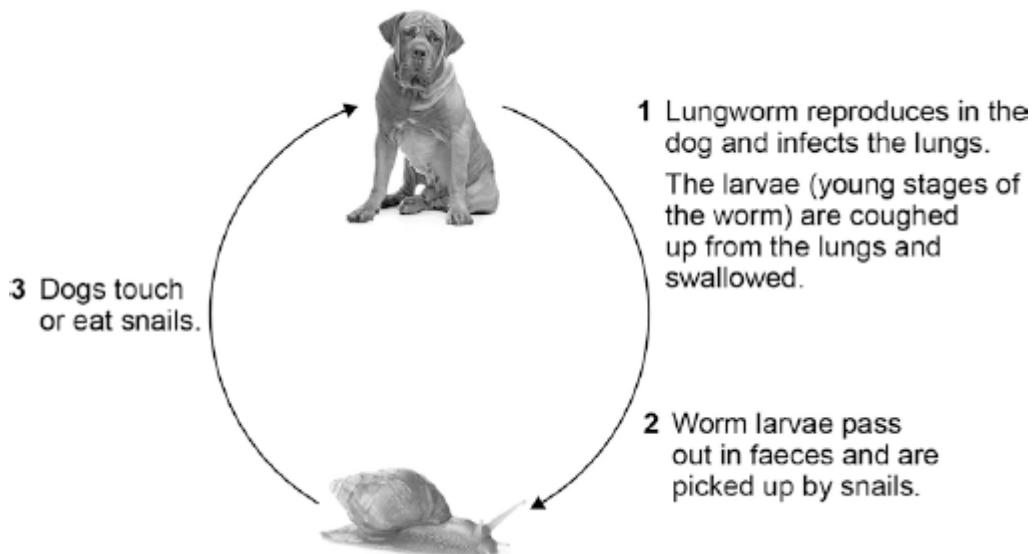
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Q5. Lungworm is an infection.

Lungworm can kill dogs.

It is caused by a small worm.

The diagram below shows the lifecycle of the lungworm.



Dog © Eriklam/iStock/Thinkstock, snail © Karandaev/iStock/Thinkstock

(a) What type of organism is represented by the snail in the lifecycle of the lungworm?

Tick **one** box.

Fungus

Parasite

Protist

Vector

(1)

(b) Suggest how the spread of the lungworm disease can be prevented.

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(3)

(c) Malaria is a disease spread by mosquitoes.

Describe **two** ways to control the spread of malaria.

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(2)

(Total 6 marks)



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Q6. Drugs must be trialled before the drugs can be used on patients.

- (a) (i) Before the clinical trials, drugs are tested in the laboratory. The laboratory trials are **not** trials on people.

What is the drug tested on in these laboratory trials?

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(1)

- (ii) Drugs must be trialled before the drugs can be used on patients.

Give **three** reasons why.

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(3)

- (b) Read the information about cholesterol and ways of treating high cholesterol levels.

Diet and inherited factors affect the level of cholesterol in a person's blood. Too much cholesterol may cause deposits of fat to build up in blood vessels and reduce the flow of blood. This may cause the person to have a heart attack. Some drugs can lower the amount of cholesterol in the blood.

The body needs cholesterol. Cells use cholesterol to make new cell membranes and some hormones. The liver makes cholesterol for the body.

Some drugs can help people with high cholesterol levels.

Statins block the enzyme in the liver that is used to produce cholesterol. People will normally have to take statins for the rest of their lives. Statins can lead to muscle damage and kidney problems. Using some statins for a long time has caused high numbers of deaths.



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Cholesterol blockers reduce the absorption of cholesterol from the intestine into the blood.

Cholesterol blockers can sometimes cause problems if the person is using other drugs.

Evaluate the use of the two types of drug for a person with high cholesterol levels.

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(Total 10 marks)



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- Q7.** (a) Explain how vaccination makes a person immune to a disease.

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(4)

- (b) Scientists are trialling a 'nicotine vaccine' that might help **wean smokers off** the drug nicotine.
The trials so far have produced very mixed results.
Nicotine molecules are very small and can get through the protective layers around the brain.

- (i) How does nicotine cause a person to become addicted?

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(1)

- (ii) The 'nicotine vaccine' is made by attaching proteins to nicotine molecules.
After 'vaccination' the body reacts to the nicotine in the same way as it reacts to pathogens.

Suggest how the 'nicotine vaccine' might help wean a smoker off nicotine.

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