

2.2.7 Cancer

AQA GCSE Biology (Higher) Question and answer notes

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How to use these notes

These notes cover everything you need to know for this part of the specification. They have been written in question-answer format to make them easier for you to study from.

In order to study successfully, I recommend you do the following for each question and answer:

- Read it carefully and make sure you **understand** it.
- **Memorise** the answer.
- **Practice** applying your understanding to past exam questions.

A good way to memorise information is to use **retrieval practice**. This is when you practise retrieving information from your memory. You could do this by making a flashcard for each question with the question on one side and the answer on the other. Or you could use a flashcard app. Alternatively, use a sheet of paper to cover up the answer so you can only see the question. Try to answer the question and then check how you did.

You should practise retrieving each answer from your memory until you can do it perfectly. Even once you can retrieve the answer perfectly, your ability to retrieve it will probably fade as time passes without practising. Therefore you will need to keep going back to the questions that you have previously mastered and practising them again. However, each time you re-learn the answer, the memory will be stronger and will last longer than the time before.

What happens when cell division gets out of control in a multicellular organism?

Uncontrolled cell division in a multicellular organism leads to the formation of a growth called a tumour.

What is a tumour?

A tumour is a growth made up of abnormal cells.

What effects do tumours have on the organism?

Tumours cause damage to the tissues and organs around them. This can cause illness or death.

What are the two types of tumours?

The two types of tumours are benign tumours and malignant tumours.

What is a benign tumour?

A benign tumour is a tumour that is contained in one area. It is usually surrounded by a membrane.

What is a malignant tumour?

A malignant tumour is a tumour which has pieces breaking off of it and spreading to other parts of the organism. These pieces form new tumours, called secondary tumours.

What is cancer?

Cancer is when an organism has one or more malignant tumours.

What are risk factors?

Risk factors are things which make a person more likely to get a particular disease.

What are the two types of risk factors that have been identified for cancer?

The two types of risk factors that have been identified for cancer are:

- Lifestyle risk factors
- Genetic risk factors