

3.1.3 Bacterial diseases

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.

Name two diseases caused by bacteria.

Salmonella food poisoning and gonorrhoea are two diseases caused by bacteria.

What is *Salmonella* food poisoning?

Salmonella food poisoning is food poisoning caused by a group of bacteria called *Salmonella*. The symptoms include fever, abdominal cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea. These symptoms are caused by the bacteria and the toxins they secrete.

How do *Salmonella* bacteria spread from person to person?

Salmonella bacteria spread on food prepared in unhygienic conditions.

How is the spread of *Salmonella* bacteria prevented?

The spread of *Salmonella* bacteria is prevented by vaccinating poultry (birds that are kept for meat or eggs).

What is gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD), with symptoms including a thick yellow or green discharge from the vagina or penis, and pain when urinating. It is caused by a bacterium.

How is gonorrhoea treated?

Gonorrhoea is treated with antibiotics to kill the bacteria.

How is the spread of gonorrhoea prevented?

The spread of gonorrhoea is prevented in the following ways:

- The use of barrier methods of contraception such as condoms
- The treatment of infected people with antibiotics

What method used to be used to treat gonorrhoea and why is this no longer effective?

The antibiotic penicillin used to be used to treat gonorrhoea. However, this has led to the evolution of many penicillin-resistant strains of the bacteria that cause gonorrhoea.