

3.1.5 Protist 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.

What is a protist?

A protist is any eukaryotic organism that is not an animal, plant or fungus.

Name one disease caused by a protist.

Malaria is a disease caused by a protist.

What is malaria?

Malaria is a disease that affects humans. It is caused by a unicellular protist. The symptoms include repeated episodes of fever. In some cases it causes death.

How does malaria spread?

The protist that causes malaria spreads using mosquitos. When a mosquito bites an infected person, the protist enters the mosquito. When the mosquito then bites another person, the protist leaves the mosquito and enters the person's body. The mosquito is described as a 'vector' because it carries the protist from one person to another.

How can the spread of malaria be prevented?

The spread of malaria can be prevented by preventing mosquitoes from breeding and by using mosquito nets to prevent people from being bitten.