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2002

XVIII

1583

Time allowed

50 Minutes

Score

/40

Percentage

%

Biology

**AQA
AS & A LEVEL**

Topic Questions

3.2 Cells

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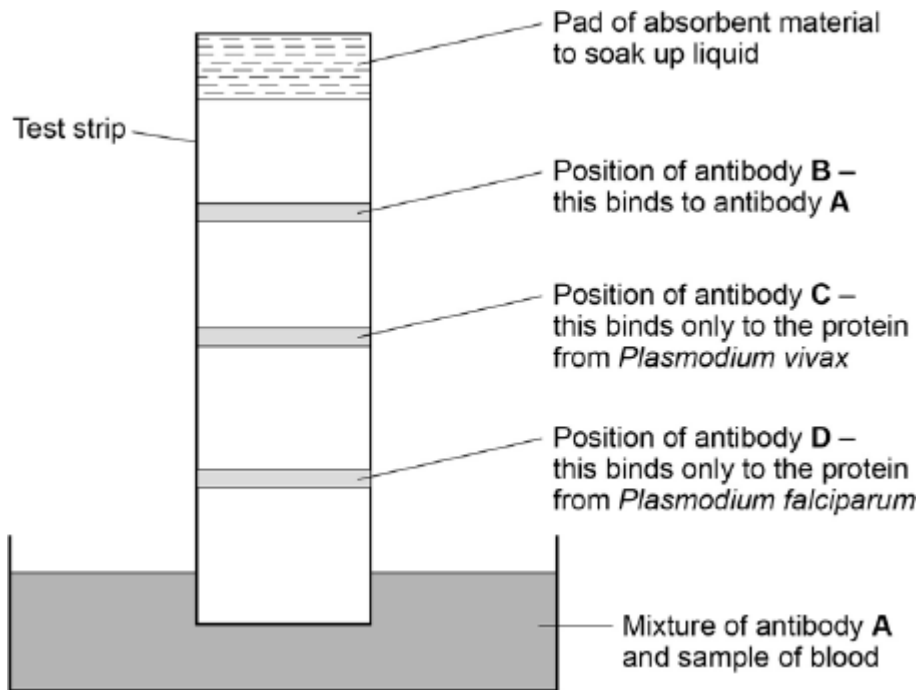
1

Malaria is a disease caused by parasites belonging to the genus *Plasmodium*. Two species that cause malaria are *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*.

A test strip that uses monoclonal antibodies can be used to determine whether a person is infected by *Plasmodium*. It can also be used to find which species of *Plasmodium* they are infected by.

- A sample of a person's blood is mixed with a solution containing an antibody, **A**, that binds to a protein found in both species of *Plasmodium*. This antibody has a coloured dye attached.
- A test strip is then put into the mixture. The mixture moves up the test strip by capillary action to an absorbent pad.
- Three other antibodies, **B**, **C** and **D** are attached to the test strip. The position of these antibodies and what they bind to is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1



(a) Explain why antibody **A** attaches only to the protein found in species of *Plasmodium*.

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(2)

Explain why antibody **B** is important.

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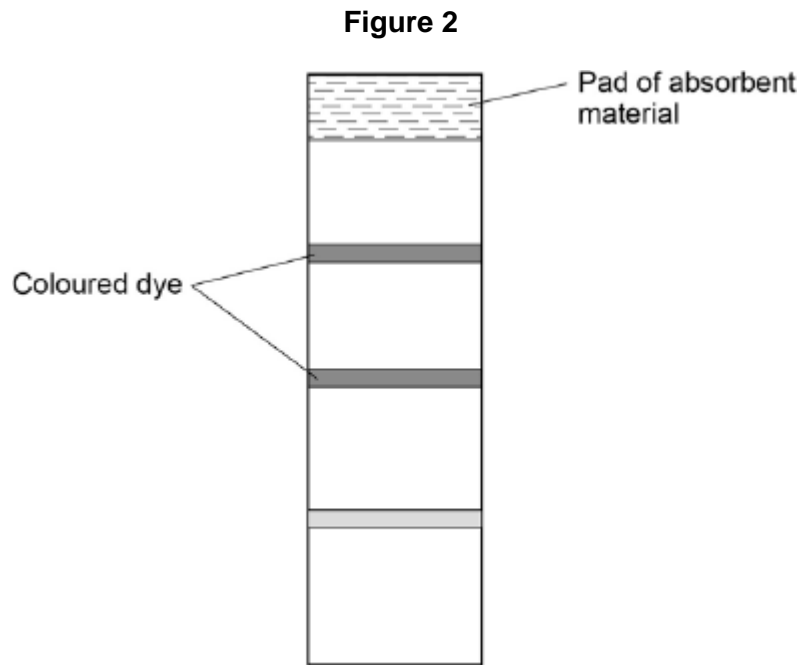
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(2)

- (c) One of these test strips was used to test a sample from a person thought to be infected with *Plasmodium*. **Figure 2** shows the result.



What can you conclude from this result?

Explain how you reached your conclusion.

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(4)

2 Read the following passage.

Herpes simplex virus (HSV) infects nerve cells in the face, including some near the lips. Like many other viruses, HSV can remain inactive inside the body for years. When HSV becomes active, it causes cold sores around the mouth.

Human cells infected with a virus may undergo programmed cell death. While HSV is inactive inside the body, only one of its genes is transcribed. This gene is the latency-associated transcript (*LAT*) gene that prevents programmed cell death of an infected nerve cell. 5

Scientists have found that transcription of the *LAT* gene produces a microRNA. This microRNA binds to some of the nerve cell's own mRNA molecules. These mRNA molecules are involved in programmed cell death of nerve cells. The scientists concluded that production of this microRNA allows HSV to remain in the body for years. 10

Use information from the passage and your own knowledge to answer the following questions.

- (a) HSV infects nerve cells in the face (line 1). Explain why it infects **only** nerve cells.

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(Extra space)

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(3)

- (b) HSV can remain inactive inside the body for years (lines 2–3). Explain why this virus can be described as **inactive**.

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(2)

- (c) Suggest **one** advantage of programmed cell death (line 4).

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(1)

- (d) The scientists concluded that production of this microRNA allows HSV to remain in the body for years (lines 10–12).

Explain how this microRNA allows HSV to remain in the body for years.

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3 (a) (i) A mutation of a tumour suppressor gene can result in the formation of a tumour.

Explain how.

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(2)

(ii) Not all mutations result in a change to the amino acid sequence of the encoded polypeptide.

Explain why.

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(1)

(b) Some cancer cells have a receptor protein in their cell-surface membrane that binds to a hormone called **growth factor**. This stimulates the cancer cells to divide.

Scientists have produced a monoclonal antibody that stops this stimulation.

Use your knowledge of monoclonal antibodies to suggest how this antibody stops the growth of a tumour.

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4

Read the following passage.

Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is a substance found in blood. A high concentration of LDL in a person's blood can increase the risk of atheroma formation. Liver cells have a receptor on their cell-surface membranes that LDL binds to. This leads to LDL entering the cell. A regulator protein, also found in blood, can bind to the same receptor as LDL. This prevents LDL entering the liver cell. People who have a high concentration of this regulator protein in their blood will have a high concentration of LDL in their blood. Scientists have made a monoclonal antibody that prevents this regulator protein working. They have suggested that these antibodies could be used to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

5

A trial was carried out on a small number of healthy volunteers, divided into two groups. The scientists injected one group with the monoclonal antibody in salt solution. The other group was a control group. They measured the concentration of LDL in the blood of each volunteer at the start and after 3 months. They found that the mean LDL concentration in the volunteers injected with the antibody was 64% lower than in the control group.

10

15

Use the information in the passage and your own knowledge to answer the following questions.



- (a) The scientists gave an injection to a mouse to make it produce the monoclonal antibody used in this investigation (line 7).

What should this injection have contained?

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(1)

- (b) LDL enters the liver cells (lines 3–4).

Using your knowledge of the structure of the cell-surface membrane, suggest how LDL enters the cell.

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(2)

- (c) Explain how the monoclonal antibody would prevent the regulator protein from working (lines 7–8).

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(2)

- (d) Describe how the control group should have been treated.

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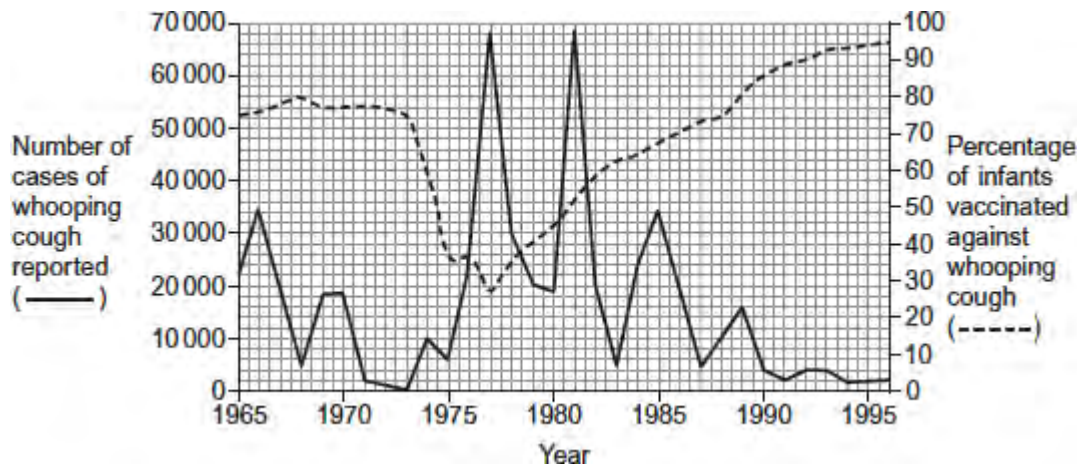
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Whooping cough is a disease that affects some infants. Doctors collected data relating to whooping cough between 1965 and 1996.

They collected data for:

- the number of cases of whooping cough reported
- the percentage of infants vaccinated against whooping cough.

The graph shows the data collected by the doctors.



(a) Suggest **two** reasons why the percentage of infants vaccinated decreased between 1973 and 1975.

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(2)

(b) Between 1980 and 1990, there were three peaks in the number of reported cases of whooping cough. After 1981, the number of cases of whooping cough in each peak decreased.

Use the information from the graph to suggest why.

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(2)



- (c) The percentage of the population vaccinated does **not** need to be 100% to be effective in preventing the spread of whooping cough.

Suggest why.

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(2)
(Total 6 marks)



6 (a) Give **two** ways in which pathogens can cause disease.

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(2)

(b) Putting bee honey on a cut kills bacteria. Honey contains a high concentration of sugar.

Use your knowledge of water potential to suggest how putting honey on a cut kills bacteria.

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(3)

(Total 5 marks)