

**NCERT Exemplar for Class 8 Science Chapter 2**  
**Microorganisms: Friend and Foe - Complete Questions and Answers**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**1. Which of the following reproduces only inside a host cell?**

- (a) Bacteria
- (b) Virus
- (c) Amoeba
- (d) Fungus

**Answer: (b) Virus**

**Explanation:** Virus is considered as intermediate between living and non-living. Outside a host virus remains inactive. It can perform its life processes and reproduction only when it is inside a host cell.

**2. A disease in human beings caused by virus is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) typhoid
- (b) influenza
- (c) dysentery
- (d) cholera

**Answer: (b) influenza**

**Explanation:**

- Typhoid is caused by bacteria Salmonella typhoid
- Dysentery is caused by amoeba which is a protozoan
- Cholera is caused by Vibrio cholera bacteria

**3. Pathogenic micro-organisms present in host cells are killed by medicines called**

- (a) pain killer
- (b) antibodies
- (c) antibiotics
- (d) vaccines

**Answer: (c) antibiotics**

**Explanation:**

- Pain Killers give relief from pain
- Antibodies are produced by our immune system which acts and elicit a specific immune reaction
- Antibiotics inhibit or kill certain bacteria
- Vaccines provide acquired immunity against a particular disease

**4. The two micro-organisms which live in symbiotic association in lichens are**

- (a) fungus and protozoa
- (b) alga and bacteria
- (c) bacteria and protozoa
- (d) alga and fungus

**Answer: (d) alga and fungus**

**5. The gas released during the preparation of bread is**

- (a) oxygen
- (b) carbon dioxide
- (c) nitrogen
- (d) sulphur dioxide

**Answer: (b) carbon dioxide**

**Explanation:** Carbon-di-oxide is released due to fermentation process conducted by yeast. CO<sub>2</sub> causes rising of dough and makes the bread fluffy.

**6. The disease caused by a protozoan and spread by an insect is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) dengue
- (b) malaria
- (c) polio
- (d) measles

**Answer: (b) malaria**

**Explanation:** Malaria is caused by protozoan named Plasmodium vivax which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Other options are viral diseases hence they are wrong answers.

**7. Paheli dug two pits, A and B, in her garden. In pit A, she put a polythene bag packed with some agricultural waste. In pit B, she dumped the same kind of waste but without packing it in a polythene bag. She, then covered both the pits with soil. What did she observe after a month?**

- (a) Waste in pit A degraded faster than that in pit B
- (b) Waste in pit B degraded faster than that in pit A
- (c) Waste in both pits degraded almost equally
- (d) Waste in both pits did not degrade at all

**Answer: (b) Waste in pit B degraded faster than that in pit A**

**Explanation:** Waste in pit B degrades faster than waste in pit A because polythene in pit B is open and receives oxygen for composting whereas polythene in pit A is closed and organisms don't receive oxygen to compost the waste material in the polythene bag.

#### Very Short Answer Questions

**8. Unscramble the jumbled words underlined in the following statements.**

- (a) Cells of our body produce santiidobe to fight pathogens.
- (b) curbossulite is an air-borne disease caused by a bacterium.
- (c) Xanrhat is a dangerous bacterial disease.
- (d) Yeasts are used in the wine industry because of their property of meronettinaf.

**Answer:**

- (a) **Antibodies**
- (b) **Tuberculosis**
- (c) **Anthrax**
- (d) **Fermentation**

**9. Suggest a suitable word for each of the following statements.**

- (a) Chemicals added to food to prevent growth of microorganisms.
- (b) Nitrogen-fixing microorganism present in the root nodules of legumes.
- (c) Agent which spreads pathogens from one place to another.
- (d) Chemicals which kill or stop the growth of pathogens.

**Answer:**

- (a) **Preservatives**
- (b) **Rhizobium**
- (c) **Carrier/vector**
- (d) **Antibiotics**

**10. Match the names of scientists given in Column A with the discovery made by them given in Column B.**

Column A	Column B
(a) Louis Pasteur	(i) Penicillin
(b) Robert Koch	(ii) anthrax bacterium
(c) Edward Jenner	(iii) Fermentation
(d) Alexander Fleming	(iv) small pox vaccine
(v) Typhoid	

**Answer:**

- (a) Louis Pasteur → (iii) Fermentation
- (b) Robert Koch → (ii) anthrax bacterium
- (c) Edward Jenner → (iv) small pox vaccine
- (d) Alexander Fleming → (i) Penicillin

**11. Name one commercial use of yeast**

**Answer:** Yeast is used in making breads and they are used in fermentation of alcohol.

**12. Name the process in yeast that converts sugars into alcohol.**

**Answer:** Fermentation is the process in yeast that converts sugars into alcohol.

**13. In the soil, which nutrient is enriched by blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)?**

**Answer:** Blue-green-algae enriches Nitrogen in the soil.

**14. Why should we avoid standing close to a tuberculosis patient while he/she is coughing?**

**Answer:** Tuberculosis can spread through air when the infected person coughs. Hence we avoid standing close to a tuberculosis patient while he/she is coughing.

**15. Polio drops are not given to children suffering from diarrhoea. Why?**

**Answer:** If the children is suffering from diarrhea oral polio drops will get excreted due to frequent motions. Hence children with diarrhea are not given with polio drops.

**16. Paheli watched her grandmother making mango pickle. After she bottled the pickle, her grandmother poured oil on top of the pickle before closing the lid. Paheli wanted to know why oil was poured? Can you help her understand why?**

**Answer:** Oils prevent attack of bacteria which will help preserve the pickle for a long period of time.

### Short Answer Questions

**17. Match the microorganisms given in the Column A to the group to which they belong in Column B.**

Column A	Column B
(a) Lactobacillus	(i) Algae
(b) Aspergillus	(ii) Protozoa
(c) Spirogyra	(iii) Fungi
(d) Paramecium	(iv) Bacteria

**Answer:**

- (a) Lactobacillus → (iv) Bacteria
- (b) Aspergillus → (iii) Fungi

- (c) Spirogyra → (i) Algae
- (d) Paramecium → (ii) Protozoa

**18. Classify the following into friendly and harmful microorganisms.**

*Yeast, malarial parasite, Lactobacillus, bread mould, Rhizobium, Bacillus anthracis*

**Answer:**

Friendly Microorganisms	Harmful Microorganisms
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Yeast	malarial parasite
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Lactobacillus	bread mould
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Rhizobium	Bacillus anthracis
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**19. While returning from the school, Boojho ate chaat from a street hawker. When he reached home, he felt ill and complained of stomach ache and fell ill. What could be the reason?**

**Answer:** The probable reason is that the chaat was contaminated by pathogenic microbes due to unhygienic conditions near the shop or the utensil used for serving could have contaminated. The reason may be the contamination of food by pathogenic microbes. Contamination may be due to the unhygienic conditions near the shop or the utensil used to serve the chaat.

**20. What will happen to 'pooris' and 'unused kneaded flour' if they are left in the open for a day or two?**

**Answer:** Pooris and unused kneaded flour get spoiled due to microbial activity. Food gets fermented when kept open and it will be spoiled.

**21. (a) Name two diseases that are caused by virus. (b) Write one important characteristic of virus.**

**Answer:**

- (a) Polio, HIV
- (b) Virus can reproduce only when it is inside the host cell.

**Long Answer Questions**

**22. Observe the Fig. and answer the questions that follows.**



- Write the name of the disease.
- Name the causative agent of this disease?
- How does the disease spread from one plant to another?
- Name any two plant diseases and the microbes that cause them.

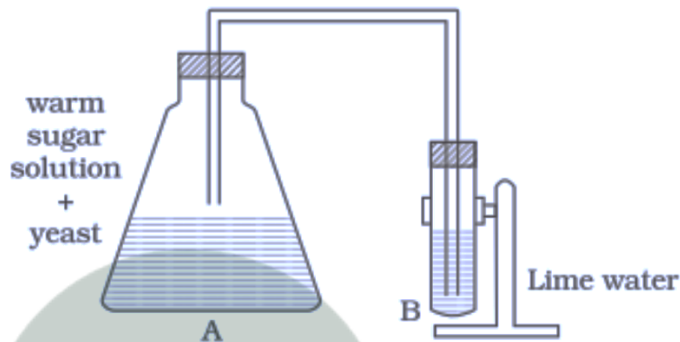
**Answer:**

- (a) Yellow vein mosaic of lady's finger/okra
- (b) This disease is caused by a virus called Yellow vein mosaic virus
- (c) This disease spread from one plant to other by insects
- (d) (i) Citrus canker caused by bacteria (ii) Rust of wheat caused by fungus

**23. How do vaccines work?**

**Answer:** When a disease-carrying microbe enters our body, the body produces antibodies to fight the invader. The body also remembers how to fight the microbe if it enters again. If dead or weakened microbes are introduced into a healthy body, the body fights and kills the invading bacteria by producing suitable antibodies. The antibodies remain in the body and we are protected from the disease-causing microbes forever. This is how a vaccine works.

**24. Observe the set up given in Fig and answer the following questions.**

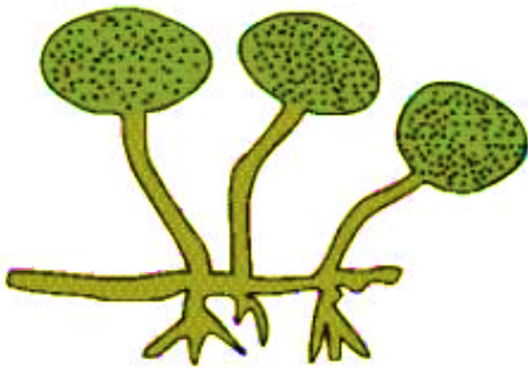


- (a) What happens to the sugar solution in A?  
 (b) Which gas is released in A?  
 (c) What changes will you observe in B when the released gas passes through it?

**Answer:**

- (a) Yeast ferments sugar to convert it to alcohol and carbon-di-oxide is released
- (b) Carbon-di-oxide
- (c) CO<sub>2</sub> converts limewater milky

**25. Observe the Fig and answer the following questions.**



- (a) Name the microorganism and the group to which it belongs.  
 (b) Name the food item on which the organism grows.  
 (c) Does it grow well in dry or in moist conditions?  
 (d) Is it safe to eat infected bread?

**Answer:**

- (a) The image is of bread mould. It is a fungus

- (b) It grows on moist and stale bread
- (c) It grows well in moist conditions
- (d) No, it's not safe to eat infected bread because fungus produces poisonous substance which will spoil the food

**26. Give reasons for the following.**

- (a) Fresh milk is boiled before consumption while processed milk stored in packets can be consumed without boiling.
- (b) Raw vegetables and fruits are kept in refrigerators whereas jams and pickles can be kept outside.
- (c) Farmers prefer to grow beans and peas in nitrogen deficient soils.
- (d) Mosquitoes can be controlled by preventing stagnation of water though they do not live in water. Why?

**Answer:**

- (a) Fresh milk is boiled to kill the harmful microorganisms in the milk. Packed milk is pasteurized hence there is no need to boil the pasteurized milk.
- (b) Raw vegetables easily get infected by microbes. Hence they are kept in refrigerator as low temperature inhibits the growth of micro-organisms. In Jams and pickle there are sugar and salt which acts as preservatives. Hence they do not get infected easily.
- (c) Beans and peas are leguminous plants which have Rhizobium in their root nodules. Rhizobium fixes atmospheric Nitrogen to enrich the soil and its fertility gets increased.
- (d) Though mosquitos do not live in water, their eggs and their larvae grow in water. Hence mosquitoes can be controlled by preventing stagnation of water.

**27. How can we prevent the following diseases?**

- (a) Cholera  
(b) Typhoid  
(c) Hepatitis A

**Answer:**

- (a) Cholera can be prevented by following good personal hygiene and sanitation practices.
- (b) Typhoid can be prevented by eating properly cooked food, by drinking boiled water and by getting vaccinated against typhoid disease.
- (c) Hepatitis can be prevented by drinking boiled water and by getting vaccinated.

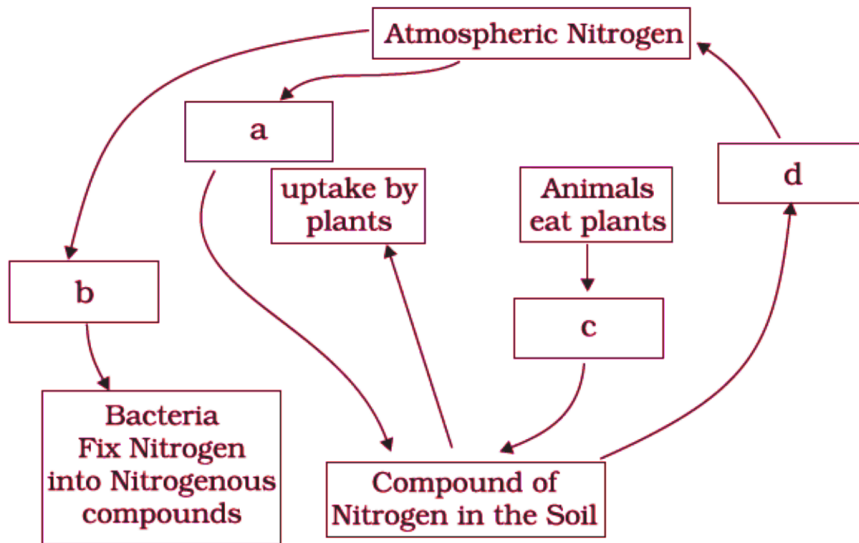
**28. Complete the following cycle given as Fig by filling the blanks (a), (b), (c) (d)**

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**Answer:**

- (a) Lightning fixes nitrogen
- (b) Nitrogen fixing bacteria and blue green algae fix atmospheric nitrogen
- (c) Nitrogenous waste from excretion and death
- (d) Bacteria turn compounds of nitrogen into gaseous nitrogen

