

**Introducing the Pathogens**

***Possible Questions :***

1. When you consider yourself ‘fit and well’, how would you describe your condition?

2. When you feel unwell, what kind of signs (symptoms) indicate the presence of illness?

3. What is your experience of methods used to fight disease?

4. Give some examples of diseases that you think are caused by living organisms.

5. Why do you think more people suffer from disease in developing countries, as compared to fully developed ones?

6. Outline some of the effects an epidemic could have on a community of people.

7. Why do you think we learnt so little about infectious disease until the 18th century?

8. How might the activities of a pathogen harm the host organism in which it establishes itself?

9. Describe the postulates of Robert Koch, would they still be in use today?

10. Describe some of the differences in growing bacteria and viruses in pure culture in the laboratory.

11. Describe some of the ways in which pathologists distinguish between different species of bacteria.

12. List the five major groups of pathogens.

13. Describe how bacteria can play a beneficial role.

14. Outline some of the different ways in which bacteria can harm the host.

15. Describe some of the environmental factors which influence how well a particular species of bacteria grows.

16. Explain how viruses differ from bacteria.

17. Why do you think that viruses were discovered only recently?

18. Describe how viruses infect cells.

19. Explain why you think viruses are spread so easily and are so hard to eradicate?

20. Why does the disease Smallpox have a unique place in the history of medical science?

21. Why is the Rubella virus considered to be so dangerous, especially to women?

22. Explain why vaccination is thought to be the best method of defence against viral diseases.

23. Why are many diseases caused by protozoans limited to certain geographical areas?

24. Describe the life cycle and effects on the hosts of a particular pathogenic protozoan.

25. Why is the spread of pathogens into a previously unexposed population so dangerous?

26. Describe some of the infections caused by parasitic fungi?

27. Why are the parasitic fungi so dangerous in tropical areas?

28. Describe some of the methods used by hospitals to minimise the risk of patients picking up bacterial infections.

29. Why do hospitals consider Golden Staph so dangerous?