



# Definitions and Concepts for AQA Biology GCSE

## Topic 3: Infection and Response

*Definitions in **bold** are for higher tier only*

*Definitions marked by '\*' are for separate sciences only*

**Antibiotics:** Medicines that help to cure bacterial disease by killing infective bacteria inside the body.

**Clinical drug testing:** Drug testing done on healthy human volunteers and patients.

**Communicable disease:** A disease that can be spread between individuals either directly or indirectly.

**Double blind trial:** A study performed where neither the researcher or patient know whether the patient is taking the drug or a placebo.

**Gonorrhoea:** A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium with symptoms of a thick yellow or green discharge from the vagina or penis and pain on urinating. †

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):** An infectious virus that weakens the immune system and can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

**Malaria:** A disease caused by a protist that causes recurrent episodes of fever and can be fatal.

**Measles:** A serious disease caused by a virus that shows symptoms of fever and a red skin rash.

**\*Monoclonal antibodies: Antibodies produced from a single clone of cells that are specific to one binding site on one protein antigen.**

**Non-communicable disease:** A disease which cannot be spread between individuals.

**Non-specific defence:** General physical and chemical barriers that defend the body against lots of different types of pathogen.



**Pathogens:** Microorganisms that cause infectious disease.

**Placebo:** A substance designed to be indistinguishable from a drug being tested but has no actual effect on the patient.

**Preclinical drug testing:** Drug testing done in a laboratory using cells, tissues and live animals.

**Rose black spot:** A fungal disease where purple or black spots develop on leaves, which often turn yellow and drop early.

**Salmonella:** A bacterial disease that is spread by bacteria ingested in food and can cause a fever, abdominal cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea.

**Side effects:** Other additional effects that the drug has that are different from the expected effect of the drug.

**Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV):** A widespread plant pathogen affecting many species of plants which produces a mosaic pattern on the leaves and limits the plant growth.

**Vaccination:** The process of introducing small quantities of dead or inactive forms of a pathogen into the body to stimulate the white blood cells to produce antibodies. †

**White blood cell:** An important type of cell that makes up the immune system and produces antibodies and antitoxins.

*Definitions denoted with a '†' taken from: [AQA GCSE Biology Specification, 8461, Version 1.0 2.1, April 2016](#)*