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KINGDOM PROTISTA

50 Solved Biology MCQs

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Contents & How to Use

Each question shows four options. The **correct answer is highlighted in green with a tick**, followed by a short explanation. Tap any item below to jump straight to it.

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Quick Answer Key → (last page before the end)

Did you know? Try covering the options first, answer from memory, then check the tick!

Section 1: Protista Basics

Questions 1 – 10

Q1 **Kingdom Protista mainly includes:**

- ○ A. Unicellular prokaryotes
- ○ B. Multicellular fungi
- ○ C. Multicellular plants
- ✔ **D. Unicellular eukaryotes**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: Protists are simple eukaryotes with a membrane-bound nucleus.

Q2 **Protists are considered:**

- ○ A. Prokaryotic
- ○ B. Acellular like viruses
- ✔ **C. Eukaryotic**
- ○ D. Non-living

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: They have a true nucleus and membrane-bound organelles.

Q3 Who coined the term “Protista”?

- ○ A. Robert Whittaker
- ✔ **B. Ernst Haeckel**
- ○ C. Carl Linnaeus
- ○ D. Louis Pasteur

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: Haeckel proposed the name in 1866 for simple living organisms.

Q4 Who first observed protozoa under a microscope?

- ○ A. Robert Hooke
- ✔ **B. Antonie van Leeuwenhoek**
- ○ C. Louis Pasteur
- ○ D. Robert Koch

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: He called these tiny living things “animalcules” in the 1670s.

Q5	Protists live mostly in:
✔	**A. Aquatic or moist habitats**
○	B. Dry deserts
○	C. Dense forests only
○	D. Frozen soil only

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: Water is needed for their body functions and survival.

Q6	Which structure do protists have that bacteria lack?
○	A. A cell membrane
○	B. Ribosomes
○	C. Cytoplasm
✔	**D. A membrane-bound nucleus**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: Bacteria have a nucleoid without a nuclear membrane.

Q7 **Most protists reproduce asexually by:**

- ○ A. Fragmentation only
- ○ B. Seed formation
- ✔ **C. Binary fission**
- ○ D. Pollination

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: The cell divides into two daughter cells.

Q8 **Sexual reproduction in protists occurs by:**

- ○ A. Binary fission
- ○ B. Budding only
- ✔ **C. Conjugation or fusion of gametes**
- ○ D. Spore germination only

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: An example is conjugation in Paramecium.

Q9	Protists that make their own food are called:
○	A. Decomposers
✔	**B. Photosynthetic protists**
○	C. Parasitic protists
○	D. Predatory protists

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: They contain chlorophyll and act as producers in water.

Q10	Plant-like protists are mainly the:
✔	**A. Algae**
○	B. Amoebae
○	C. Paramecia
○	D. Sporozoans

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: Algae photosynthesise and are producers in aquatic ecosystems.

Did you know? A single drop of pond water can contain many different kinds of protists!

Section 2: Protozoans

Questions 11 – 20

Q11 **Amoeba moves by:**

- ○ A. Cilia
- ○ B. Flagella
- ○ C. Contractile vacuole
- ✔ **D. Pseudopodia**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: Pseudopodia are temporary extensions of the cytoplasm.

Q12 **Paramecium moves by:**

- ○ A. Pseudopodia
- ○ B. Flagella
- ○ C. Muscles
- ✔ **D. Cilia**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: Rows of cilia beat in a coordinated way.

Q13 **Trypanosoma and Euglena move by:**

- ○ A. Cilia
- ○ B. Pseudopodia
- ✔ **C. Flagella**
- ○ D. Wings

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: A long whip-like flagellum drives the cell forward.

Q14 **The contractile vacuole in freshwater protozoa mainly:**

- ○ A. Digests food
- ✔ **B. Removes excess water**
- ○ C. Makes ATP
- ○ D. Stores starch

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: It maintains osmotic balance (osmoregulation).

Q15	Paramecium belongs to the group:
✔	**A. Ciliates**
○	B. Amoeboids
○	C. Flagellates
○	D. Sporozoans

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: Ciliates are covered with cilia.

Q16	Amoeba takes in food by:
✔	**A. Phagocytosis**
○	B. Photosynthesis
○	C. Chemosynthesis
○	D. Osmosis only

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: Pseudopodia engulf food into a food vacuole.

Q17 Paramecium has which nuclei?

- ○ A. Two macronuclei
- ○ B. Nucleus and nucleoid
- ○ C. Two micronuclei
- ✔ **D. Macronucleus and micronucleus**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: The macronucleus controls daily activities; the micronucleus is used in reproduction.

Q18 The cell mouth of Paramecium is the:

- ○ A. Cytoproct
- ○ B. Pellicle
- ✔ **C. Cytostome**
- ○ D. Trichocyst

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: It leads to the gullet and food vacuoles.

Q19 **The firm flexible covering of Paramecium and Euglena is the:**

- ○ A. Cell wall
- ✔ **B. Pellicle**
- ○ C. Cuticle
- ○ D. Frustule

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: The pellicle is a flexible protein layer beneath the membrane.

Q20 **Entamoeba histolytica causes:**

- ○ A. Malaria
- ✔ **B. Amoebic dysentery**
- ○ C. Sleeping sickness
- ○ D. Kala-azar

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: It infects the large intestine of humans.

Did you know? A Paramecium is covered with thousands of tiny cilia that beat in waves.

Section 3: Algal Protists

Questions 21 – 30

Q21 **Diatom cell walls are made of:**

- ✔ **A. Silica**
- ○ B. Cellulose
- ○ C. Chitin
- ○ D. Peptidoglycan

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: They form two overlapping shells called frustules.

Q22 **Diatomaceous earth is used for:**

- ○ A. Making bread
- ○ B. Dyeing cloth
- ○ C. Fixing nitrogen
- ✔ **D. Filtration and polishing**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: It is made of fossil diatom shells and is fine and abrasive.

Q23 **Dinoflagellates are mostly:**

- ○ A. Parasitic
- ○ B. Soil dwelling
- ✔ **C. Marine and photosynthetic**
- ○ D. Terrestrial

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Most live in marine plankton and have two flagella.

Q24 **Red tides are caused by rapid growth of:**

- ○ A. Diatoms
- ○ B. Euglenoids
- ✔ **C. Dinoflagellates**
- ○ D. Amoebae

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Blooms such as Gonyaulax colour the sea and release toxins.

Q25	Euglena is considered a connecting link between:
○	A. Fungi and bacteria
✔	**B. Plants and animals**
○	C. Viruses and bacteria
○	D. Algae and fungi

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: It has chlorophyll like plants but moves and can ingest food like animals.

Q26	The light-sensitive organelle of Euglena is the:
✔	**A. Eyespot (stigma)**
○	B. Pyrenoid
○	C. Cytostome
○	D. Contractile vacuole

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: It helps the cell swim towards light.

Q27 **Euglena stores food as:**

- ○ A. Starch
- ○ B. Glycogen
- ○ C. Chitin
- ✔ **D. Paramylon**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: Paramylon is a carbohydrate characteristic of euglenoids.

Q28 **Phytoplankton are important because they:**

- ○ A. Cause all diseases
- ○ B. Break down wood
- ○ C. Fix atmospheric nitrogen only
- ✔ **D. Produce oxygen and form the base of aquatic food chains**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: They are the main producers in oceans and lakes.

Q29 **Glowing seawater at night is often due to:**

- ○ A. Diatoms
- ○ B. Amoebae
- ✔ **C. Dinoflagellates**
- ○ D. Paramecia

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Some, like Noctiluca, emit light when disturbed.

Q30 **Chrysophytes include:**

- ○ A. Amoeba and Paramecium
- ✔ **B. Diatoms and golden algae**
- ○ C. Slime moulds
- ○ D. Sporozoans

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: They are photosynthetic with silica-containing walls.

Did you know? Diatoms are estimated to produce roughly a fifth of the oxygen we breathe.

Section 4: Moulds & Parasites

Questions 31 – 40

Q31 **Slime moulds are:**

- ✔ **A. Saprophytic protists**
- ○ B. Photosynthetic algae
- ○ C. Parasitic bacteria
- ○ D. Plants

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: They feed on decaying organic matter.

Q32 **The feeding body of a slime mould is called the:**

- ✔ **A. Plasmodium**
- ○ B. Mycelium
- ○ C. Thallus
- ○ D. Hypha

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: It is a multinucleate mass of protoplasm that creeps over dead matter.

Q33 **The malaria parasite is spread by the:**

- ○ A. Tsetse fly
- ○ B. Housefly
- ○ C. Sandfly
- ✔ **D. Female Anopheles mosquito**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: The mosquito injects the parasite while biting.

Q34 **The malaria parasite Plasmodium belongs to the:**

- ○ A. Ciliates
- ○ B. Flagellates
- ✔ **C. Sporozoans**
- ○ D. Amoeboids

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Sporozoans form spore-like infective stages.

Q35 **Sleeping sickness is caused by:**

- ○ A. Plasmodium
- ✔ **B. Trypanosoma**
- ○ C. Leishmania
- ○ D. Entamoeba

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: It is a flagellated protozoan spread by the tsetse fly.

Q36 **Kala-azar is caused by:**

- ○ A. Giardia
- ✔ **B. Leishmania**
- ○ C. Trypanosoma
- ○ D. Entamoeba

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: It is transmitted by sandflies.

Q37 **The vector of sleeping sickness is the:**

- ✔ **A. Tsetse fly**
- ○ B. Anopheles mosquito
- ○ C. Housefly
- ○ D. Aedes mosquito

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: A vector carries a disease-causing organism between hosts.

Q38 **Giardia lamblia causes:**

- ○ A. Malaria
- ○ B. Sleeping sickness
- ○ C. Tuberculosis
- ✔ **D. Diarrhoea (giardiasis)**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: This flagellate infects the small intestine and spreads through contaminated water.

Q39 **Plasmodium multiplies in human:**

- ○ A. Lungs and kidneys
- ○ B. Brain and bones
- ✔ **C. Liver and red blood cells**
- ○ D. Skin and hair

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: It first infects liver cells and then red blood cells.

Q40 **The periodic fever of malaria occurs when:**

- ○ A. Mosquitoes bite
- ○ B. White cells increase
- ✔ **C. Infected red blood cells burst**
- ○ D. The liver stops working

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Release of parasites and toxins triggers fever and chills.

Did you know? The slime mould Physarum can find the shortest path through a maze!

Section 5: Structure & Importance

Questions 41 – 50

Q41 **Which of these is a protozoan?**

- ○ A. Lactobacillus
- ✔ **B. Amoeba**
- ○ C. Agaricus
- ○ D. Penicillium

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: The others are a bacterium and fungi.

Q42 **In unfavourable conditions, Amoeba forms a protective:**

- ✔ **A. Cyst**
- ○ B. Spore wall
- ○ C. Pupa
- ○ D. Seed coat

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: Encystment helps it survive drought and cold.

Q43 **Zooxanthellae living inside corals are:**

- ○ A. Bacteria
- ○ B. Fungi
- ○ C. Amoebae
- ✔ **D. Symbiotic dinoflagellates**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: They give corals food and colour through photosynthesis.

Q44 **Trichocysts in Paramecium are used for:**

- ○ A. Digestion
- ○ B. Respiration
- ○ C. Excretion
- ✔ **D. Defence and anchorage**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: They discharge as thread-like structures when the cell is threatened.

Q45 **Respiration in protozoans takes place by:**

- ○ A. Lungs
- ○ B. Gills
- ✔ **C. Diffusion through the cell surface**
- ○ D. Tracheae

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Single cells exchange gases directly with water.

Q46 **Fossil shells of foraminifera mainly help in:**

- ○ A. Making glass
- ✔ **B. Oil exploration**
- ○ C. Making paper
- ○ D. Fertilising soil

✔ **Answer: B**
Explanation: They indicate rock age and help geologists locate oil.

Q47	Pond water often turns green due to a bloom of:
✔	**A. Algae**
○	B. Fungi
○	C. Amoebae
○	D. Viruses

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: Green algae multiply rapidly in sunlit, nutrient-rich water.

Q48	Chlamydomonas is a:
✔	**A. Unicellular green alga**
○	B. Ciliate protozoan
○	C. Slime mould
○	D. Sporozoan

✔ **Answer: A**
Explanation: It has a cup-shaped chloroplast and two flagella.

Q49 **Volvox is a:**

- ○ A. Slime mould
- ○ B. Ciliate
- ○ C. Fungus
- ✔ **D. Colonial green alga**

✔ **Answer: D**
Explanation: Hundreds of flagellated cells form a hollow rolling sphere.

Q50 **Which of these is NOT a protist?**

- ○ A. Amoeba
- ○ B. Euglena
- ✔ **C. Rhizopus**
- ○ D. Paramecium

✔ **Answer: C**
Explanation: Rhizopus is a fungus (bread mould).

Did you know? Malaria is caused by a protist and has affected humans for thousands of years.

Quick Answer Key

Tap a question to jump back to its explanation.

Q1 → D	Q11 → D	Q21 → A	Q31 → A	Q41 → B
Q2 → C	Q12 → D	Q22 → D	Q32 → A	Q42 → A
Q3 → B	Q13 → C	Q23 → C	Q33 → D	Q43 → D
Q4 → B	Q14 → B	Q24 → C	Q34 → C	Q44 → D
Q5 → A	Q15 → A	Q25 → B	Q35 → B	Q45 → C
Q6 → D	Q16 → A	Q26 → A	Q36 → B	Q46 → B
Q7 → C	Q17 → D	Q27 → D	Q37 → A	Q47 → A
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Q10 → A	Q20 → B	Q30 → B	Q40 → C	Q50 → C



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