



Course Companion

For WJEC GCSE Food and Nutrition:
Principles of Nutrition

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource is designed to meet the Area 2: Principles of Nutrition element of the WJEC GCSE Food and Nutrition qualification.

What it covers

The resource comprises three chapters covering the following:

Chapter 1: Macronutrients	Chapter 2: Micronutrients
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protein• Fat• Carbohydrates and dietary fibre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vitamins• Minerals• Water• Complementary actions of nutrients

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

How to use this resource

The resource covers all aspects of the Area 2: Principles of Nutrition element, and is designed to increase knowledge of the topic and enable learners to test their understanding and skills through a variety of assessment methods.

Learning outcomes enable the learner to clearly see what they are expected to know at the end of each chapter.

The **Overview** provides a brief summary of what will be covered in the chapter and the **Key Terms** box provides information on key terms within the resource (key terms are emboldened within the chapter text).

Did you know	These boxes contain handy tips
Things to think about	These boxes provide learners with a chance to develop cognitive skills, do some research (books, Internet, people) and take part in a discussion
Apply	These boxes provide the learner with the opportunity to further their skills, either through cognitive or practical application
Qs	Test learners' knowledge and understanding through quick Y/N questions
Skills	Based on the 'suggested application of skills' section of the WJEC GCSE Food Preparation specification, these questions test learners' skills in food safety through practical application
Study tip	Useful tips to help the learner concentrate on important aspects that may appear in the final assessment
Check your understanding	Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-answer questions appear at the end of each section to test knowledge and develop understanding
Answers	Answers to questions are provided at the end of the resource

M Golebiowska, March 2018

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* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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Chapter 1: Macronutrients

Overview

In this chapter we will investigate macronutrients – carbohydrates, proteins and fats – their role in the human body and their main sources. This chapter will help you discover how much of them you need and what the effects of deficiency and excess are for the human organism. We will also learn how to use them to create healthy, nutritious meals.



Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter, you should be able to do the following:

- ☐ Identify the main sources of proteins, carbohydrates, dietary fats
- ☐ List the main protein alternatives available
- ☐ List the functions of proteins, carbohydrates and fats in the human body
- ☐ Understand the difference between high biological value and low biological value proteins
- ☐ Understand the differences between saturated and unsaturated fats
- ☐ Understand the differences between the three carbohydrate monosaccharides (glucose, fructose and galactose)
- ☐ Understand the effects of deficiency and excess of macronutrients
- ☐ Explain the related dietary reference values of proteins, fats and carbohydrates
- ☐ Modify recipes to meet the requirements of different dietary needs
- ☐ Use your knowledge of macronutrients and apply it when developing recipes
- ☐ Demonstrate food preparation skills

Key Terms

High biological value protein	A protein that contains all of the essential amino acids
Low biological value protein	A protein that does not contain all of the essential amino acids
Textured vegetable protein	A protein derived from vegetable produce, such as soybeans
Protein alternative	A source of protein which is suitable for use in vegetarian and vegan diets as it does not come from animal sources
Protein complementation	The process of combining sources of incomplete proteins to form a complete protein
Saturated fats	Type of fat where all the bonds between fatty acid chains are saturated
Unsaturated fats	Type of fat that contains at least one double bond between fatty acid chains (polyunsaturated fats and monounsaturated fats)
Dietary reference value	The amount of nutrients necessary to fulfil a person's nutritional requirements
Polysaccharide	A carbohydrate in which there are more than 10 monosaccharide units joined together into a long chain of starch or dietary fibre
Monosaccharide	A carbohydrate in which there is only one monosaccharide unit, such as glucose, galactose and fructose
Disaccharide/oligosaccharide	A carbohydrate in which 2–10 molecules of monosaccharides are joined together, such as sucrose (white sugar), lactose (sugar found in milk) and maltose
Dietary fibre	Indigestible carbohydrate found in plant cells that does not dissolve in water and, therefore, perform digestive functions
Amino acids	Molecules containing nitrogen which are bound together to form a protein molecule
Vegetarian	People who do not eat meat, and sometimes fish, but otherwise eat products of animal origin, such as eggs and dairy products
Vegans	People who do not eat any produce of animal origin, including dairy products, eggs, fats (such as lard) or even honey
Essential amino acids	Amino acids which cannot be built from scratch and have to be provided as a part of a healthy diet
Non-essential amino acids	Amino acids which can be built from scratch in the body

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Macronutrients

Macronutrients are organic compounds needed by our bodies in large amounts to provide energy and building material to all of the cells around the human body. All are made from carbon, oxygen and hydrogen in different combinations, sometimes with the addition of nitrogen. The three macronutrients needed by humans are protein, fat and carbohydrates.

Protein

Proteins are large biomolecules consisting of amino acids bound together in a variety of ways. There are approximately 20 amino acids. Some of them can be made from scratch by the human body – these are called **non-essential amino acids**. The rest of them have to be provided in the diet – they are called **essential amino acids**.

D

These amino acids are built from scratch by the human body.

The functions of proteins

Proteins are essential for a number of bodily functions:

- Building up all around the body, e.g. myosin and actin make up muscle cells
- Transporting nutrients and waste, e.g. haemoglobin transports oxygen to the tissues
- Making up hormones, e.g. insulin and glucagon, which are responsible for sugar balance
- Protecting the body by building the cells of the immune system, e.g. antibodies
- Making most of the bodily processes possible by providing enzymes, e.g. pepsin breaks down protein chains into shorter chains and single amino acids in the digestive system
- Maintaining the base–acid balance in the blood
- Proteins may also be used as an emergency energy source, mainly when other sources like carbohydrates and fats – are unavailable

Research

Research why protein-rich foods are more easily affected by microorganism growth than carbohydrate-rich foods.

Low and high biological value proteins

A protein can be built from a number of amino acids. If a protein contains all of the essential amino acids in the correct proportion, it is known as a **high biological value (HBV)** protein. If it lacks one or more of the essential amino acids (in both quality and quantity), it is called a **low biological value (LBV)** protein. High biological value proteins are usually those of animal origin – including meat, fish, eggs or milk. Low biological value proteins usually come from plants, and include beans and other legumes, as well as nuts, seeds and grains.

The haemoglobin chain consists of the following amino acids (among others):

Valine – Histidine – Leucine – Tryptophan – Proline – Glutamic acid – Glutamic acid

Given that it requires at least two molecules of glutamic acid, it will be impossible to build a correctly formed protein chain if there is too little glutamic acid available, even if there is plenty of the other amino acids. So to build a protein, the body does not only need the right type of a given amino acid (quality) but also the sufficient amount (quantity or proportion).

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Protein alternatives

To make your diet more diverse and tasty, you can think of swapping your source of protein for **protein alternatives**. These products are mainly designed to replace meat – thus, they are usually vegan and vegetarian friendly. The most popular protein alternative is **textured vegetable protein (TVP)**, which you can find in the form of meat, soy chunks, soy sausages and a variety of soy-based products, such as tofu or tempeh. Other alternative products can be based on beans, lentils, chickpeas and other legumes, as well as nuts, seeds and grains.



Things to think about

Some of the most popular British meals, such as steak pie or shepherd's pie. What would you replace the meat with to make them suitable for vegans?

Research

Go to the nearest supermarket and make a list of the protein alternatives that are available.

In the twentieth century, there were many concerns about food shortages. To help prevent shortages, in 1985 Marlow Foods Company launched Quorn™. Quorn™ is a product whose main ingredient is a mycoprotein derived from the *Fusarium venenatum* fungus. In addition to the mycoprotein, Quorn™ may contain egg white, potato starch, seasoning and other ingredients.

Think about the advantages and disadvantages of Quorn™. Are there any ethical issues?



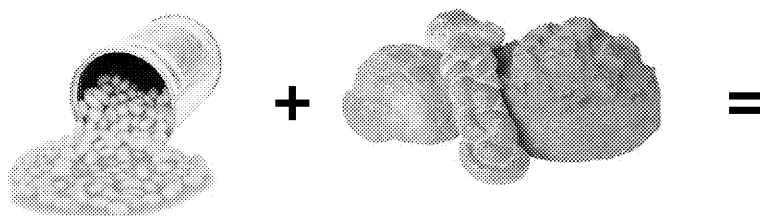
Things to think about

Do you think Quorn™ is suitable for vegans? Explain why.

Protein complementation

You might have noticed that some people do not wish to eat meat – for either religious or ethical reasons. They are called **vegetarians**. However, there are also people who do not eat any animal products (including milk or honey), and these are called **vegans**. Since their diet is generally based on plant-based foods, which are sources of low biological value, they need to complement their meals to improve the quality of the protein they are eating. **Protein complementation** is a process of combining two or more sources of protein to create a complete high biological value (HBV) meal. This can be achieved by:

- mixing legumes (such as beans, peas or lentils) with grains (such as wheat, rice or corn) to increase the amount of lysine
- eating legumes together with nuts and seeds to increase the level of methionine
- mixing legumes with grains, nuts or seeds to raise the amount of methionine
- eating legumes with corn to ameliorate the amount of tryptophan



Legumes and grains complement each other

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Protein deficiency

As you already know, proteins are vital for many bodily functions. The lack of them can sometimes cause severe, health issues. These include:

Health issue	Explanation
Loss of hair and weakening of nails	Hair and nails are not necessary for survival; thus, the body uses resources on them if there are not enough available for other functions.
Bedsore and skin lesions	Due to problems with the cell renewal process (not enough protein in the diet)
Swelling	Because of the pH and base – acid imbalance
Apathy	Protein is needed to stabilise blood sugar levels and to produce neurotransmitters. A lack of protein can lead to exhausting high blood sugar levels in the mood. Protein is also needed to produce neurotransmitters around the body, so a lack of protein means that tissues will not receive as much food as they need, and the body will become apathetic.
Fattening of the liver	Amino acids are needed by the liver to transform fats into lipoproteins (which are used for cell membranes) and lipoproteins (such as HDL and LDL). If there are not enough amino acids for the fats to be transformed, the fats will accumulate in the liver, causing fatty liver disease.
Loss of immunity and muscle power	White blood cells and muscles are built of protein, so if there is not enough protein in the diet, the immune system won't be enough to build them, and in effect your immunity will be lower and your muscle power will lower.
Inhibition of growth and development	Mainly due to lack of resources, as well as enzymes which are needed for growth and development.

Protein deficiency is rare in developed countries, but may occur sporadically in people who eat a diet of low protein products or don't eat enough food in general. The condition is more often found in developing countries where insufficient food supply occurs. It is called 'kwashiorkor' and is easily recognisable by the symptoms. A person with kwashiorkor will have thin arms and legs and a big, swollen belly.



Things to think about

Think about who is at the highest risk of increasing protein deficiency.

Protein excess

At the other end of the spectrum, there is protein excess. It is not very common, but it can occur if you replace the carbohydrates in your diet with proteins. The effect might be depression, as the body has to work harder to process the protein, and the kidneys and liver that might lead to their malfunction, slow metabolism and body weight gain (especially in sportsmen).

How much protein does a human need?

Proteins are necessary for body growth and development; thus, it is logical to think that more protein is needed. More protein is needed during adolescence (due to growth), pregnancy (due to the need to create a new body and produce milk), and breastfeeding (due to the need to create a new body and produce milk).

The reference nutrient intake for adults is usually set at 0.75 grams per kilogram of body mass. This can change due to special requirements, such as adolescence, pregnancy or breastfeeding. For infants, the intake should be increased to 1–1.5 g / kg body mass / day.

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Age group	Reference nutrient intake (RNI) per day (g)	
	males	females
Under 1	13.5	
1–3	14.5	
4–6	19.7	
7–10	28.3	
11–14	42.1	41.2
15–18	55.2	45.0
19–50	55.5	45.0
50+	53.3	46.5
pregnancy	-	51.0

Reference nutrient intake for people of all ages and sex, HMS 19.1

Skills

1. Cut a roast into thin slices. Why?
2. Try to beat a little bit of a little bit of you observe.
3. Cook a bolt meat alternative.

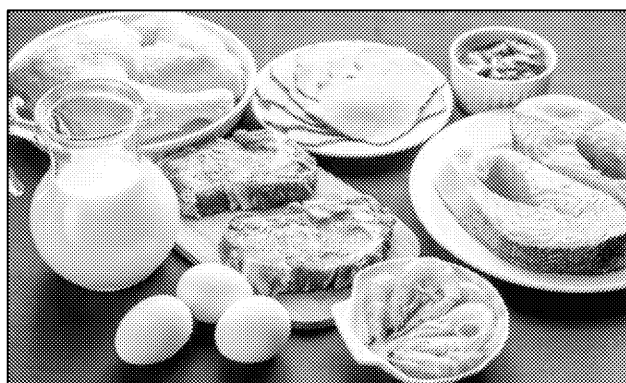


Things to think about

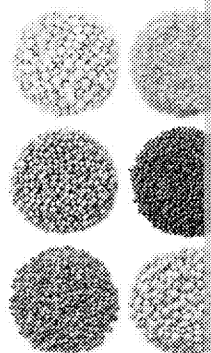
Discuss how the protein requirements change depending on a person's age and sex.

Sources of protein

The easiest available source of protein in the human diet is meat, fish, eggs and dairy products. These are complete proteins, which means that they contain all of the essential amino acids. Examples of plant sources of complete proteins include soya beans and quinoa. The other plant-based sources of proteins are grains, nuts, seeds, and legumes, such as peas, chickpeas or lentils. Since they do not contain all of the essential amino acids, they are called incomplete proteins.



Animal-derived proteins (meat, fish, eggs, milk and dairy)



Plant-derived proteins

The table below will help you to choose protein-rich ingredients when cooking protein-rich dishes.

Ingredient	Amount of protein in g per 100 g	Ingredient
Soybeans (raw)	14.0	Lean pork meat (raw)
Chickpeas	9.0	Lean beef meat (raw)
Red kidney beans (boiled)	8.4	Chicken breast (raw)
Green lentils (boiled)	8.8	Salmon (raw)
Tofu	8.1	Cod
Quinoa (raw)	13.8	Eggs
Quorn™	14.0	Milk
Almonds (ground)	21.1	Cheddar cheese

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Check your understanding: 1

1. Which of the following statements about proteins is TRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. Proteins are needed in small amounts.
 - b. Proteins denature in an acidic environment.
 - c. Proteins are not necessary for health.
 - d. The main source of protein is vegetables.
2. Which of the following is NOT suitable for a vegan? (1 mark)
 - a. almond milk ☐
 - b. Quorn ☐
 - c. hummus ☐
 - d. miso soup ☐
3. Which of the following can apply the protein complementation technique?
 - a. bread and eggs ☐
 - b. rice and eggs ☐
 - c. cheese on toast ☐
 - d. hummus ☐
4. The RNI for protein for a healthy adult is usually set at... (1 mark)
 - a. 1 g / kg body mass / day ☐
 - b. 1.5 g / kg body mass / day ☐
 - c. 0.75 g / kg body mass / day ☐
 - d. 0.5 g / kg body mass / day ☐
5. Name two plant sources of high biological value protein. (2 marks)

.....

.....
6. Describe the difference between essential and non-essential amino acids. (2 marks)

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.....
7. Explain what happens if you apply acid or heat to a protein. (2 marks)

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Fats, Oils and Lipids

Fats are molecules built from a molecule of glycerol and three chains of fatty acids (thus, they are also referred to as 'triglycerides'). The carbon molecules in the fatty acids are tied together by single or double bonds; therefore, there are two types of fatty acids – **saturated** and **unsaturated** (also called oils).

Fatty acid chains can have different lengths, and this is what determines the temperature of their melting point. The longer the chain, the higher the melting



temperature. Fats are **hydrophobic** – that means that their molecules are repelled from molecules of water and do not dissolve in water. Instead, fats float on the surface of water or create emulsions.

Saturated fats

If all the bonds in a fat molecule are single, the fat is called '**saturated**'. These fats have a higher melting temperature. Some of the fats can be easily seen – thus, they are called 'visible fats' – for example, lard, but they are present in a range of foods – these are called 'invisible fats'.

Visible saturated fats	Invisible saturated fats
Lard, suet and goose fat	Meat and cold cuts
Fish oil	Fish
Butter and cream	Cheese, milk and dairy products
Bacon and ham	Pastry, cakes and cookies, ice creams

Sources of visible and invisible saturated fats

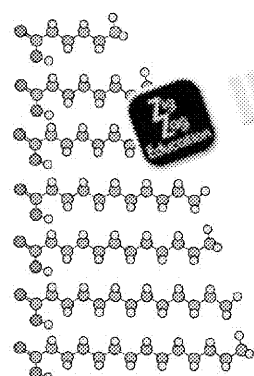
Did you know?

Fish oil is the only animal-derived fat that is liquid at room temperature.

Suet is the fatty tissue that surrounds internal organs of cattle and sheep.



The fatty acid chains can be shorter or longer. Their length determines the melting point. The longer the chain, the higher the melting temperature. For this reason, butter will melt at room temperature but the wax in a candle will not.



Caproic (hexanoic) acid

Caprylic (octanoic) acid

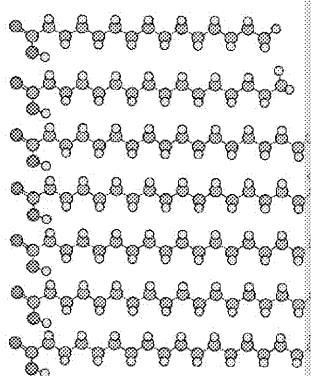
Capric (decanoic) acid

Undecyl (undecanoic) acid

Lauric (dodecanoic) acid

Tridecyl (tridecanoic) acid

Myristic (tetradecanoic) acid



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Note how the fatty acid chains grow longer in the saturated fats. Dark grey atoms to the left are Carbon atoms, and light grey atoms to the right are Hydrogen atoms. Note how they make a long chain which makes the core of the fat molecule; light grey atoms attach to the ends of the chain.

Unsaturated fats

If there is one double bond present in the fatty acid chain, the fat is called 'monounsaturated'. If there is more than one double bond in the fatty acid, the fat is called 'polyunsaturated'. The unsaturated fats are liquid or greasy at room temperature.

Did you know?

Lipids are a large group of organic compounds which include fatty acids, waxes, triglycerides and other substances that are oily to the touch.



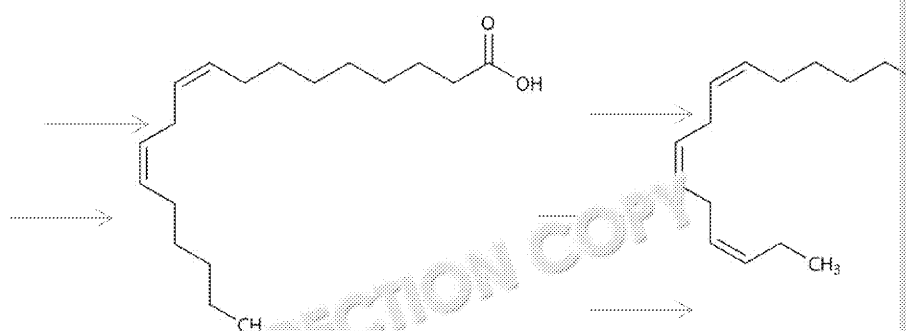
The unsaturated fats can have different conformations. If they occur in the conformation called 'cis' at room temperature, the conformation called 'trans' are formed. This is important because trans fats can cause breast cancer, coronary artery disease, and increase cholesterol levels. Most trans fats are found in fast foods, such as french fries, deep-fried foods, and margarine made with unsaturated fats.

Both mono- and polyunsaturated fats in the correct conformation (*cis*) are beneficial for health. In fact, some of them cannot be produced by the body and have to be consumed as part of a healthy diet (thus, they are called essential fatty acids). These are omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids. Their intake can improve health and decrease the risk of cancer and heart failure. It is most beneficial if they are consumed in a proportion of 3:1.

Visible fats	Invisible fats
Vegetable oils (rapeseed oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil, olive oil, flax, pumpkin seed oil, soya oil, etc.)	Seeds, nuts and grains
Cocoa butter	Sweets, biscuits and cakes, chocolate and cocoa
Coconut oil	Coconut, avocado, olives

Sources of visible and invisible plant-derived fats

Linoleic acid is one of the most important omega 6 fatty acids, while linolenic acid is an omega 3 fatty acid. Look where the double bonds are located in their chains: in the omega 6 fatty acid it is at the sixth carbon atom from the end and in the omega 3 fatty acid it is at the third carbon atom from the end.



Note the double bonds in the linoleic and linolenic fatty acids. They are important polyunsaturated fatty acids.

Did you know?

The only plant-derived fats that are solid at room temperature are cocoa butter and coconut oil.



Did you know?

The prefix 'mono' means one, only, single.
The prefix 'poly' means many or more.

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Cholesterol

Cholesterol is a fatty substance necessary to build cell membranes, bile (enzyme gallbladder in the liver) and certain hormones. Together with protein molecules and fats all around the body.

Lipoproteins are usually split into two groups:

- Low-density lipoproteins (LDL), which carry fat from liver to muscles; they are bad because they raise the total amount of cholesterol in the blood
- High-density lipoproteins (HDL), which carry excess fat from tissues to the liver or excreted; for this reason, they are also called 'good cholesterol'

High blood cholesterol levels are risk factors of such conditions as coronary heart disease and gall stones.

The function of fats

Fats, despite their bad reputation, are crucial to maintaining all of the bodily functions. A number of processes, such as:

- Providing energy – 1 g of fat provides 9 kcal of energy; moreover, fat can be stored in the body
- Maintaining cell membrane structure, size and functions, especially in skin cells (including brain)
- Transporting fats around the body – thanks to cholesterol molecules
- Dissolving some vitamins, making it possible to absorb them and use them in the body, storing them for later use
- Giving our food a desirable taste and consistency, as well as making it easier to swallow
- Maintaining stable body heat by insulating it
- Stabilising and maintaining the position of certain body organs, such as kidneys
- Building certain hormones, such as sex hormones (progesterone, oestrogen), as well as cortisol

Effects of deficiency and excess

Fat deficiency and excess are unfortunately easily observable in the United Kingdom. Fat deficiency usually occurs as an effect of undernourishment (not eating enough) or anorexia, leading to a number of health issues. Fat deficiency may manifest as:

- Loss of body weight
- Vitamin deficiency
- Dryness of the skin and keratosis (loosening of epidermis (skin))
- Decrease of immunity
- Growth disorders

Historically, it was common to be overweight. It was a sign of wealth.

Research

Find information about why a vitamin deficiency occurs when there is too little of a certain nutrient. What health problems it might lead to.

Fat excess may be a result of genetic diseases, hormonal disorders, bad eating habits and/or lack of physical activity. In effect, there are more and more overweight and obese people in the world, and – what's even more worrying – the number of obese children is on the rise. Overweight and obesity are diseases in themselves, but they can also trigger other diseases, such as coronary heart disease, rise of blood cholesterol levels, rise of blood pressure, diabetes and even cancer.

The test results show that...

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Does a person really need fat?

YES! Fat is necessary to keep the body working correctly, and a shortage of it might mean a person's diet should get between 25% and 35% of its energy from fat, which for a typical diet means that there should be from 55 to 77 g of fat.

Total fat	Up to 35% of total daily calories
Saturated fats	Up to 11%
Unsaturated fats	Up to 22%
Trans fats	Up to 2%

Daily reference values for fats, Public Health England 2014

How to decrease the amount of fat in food

Sometimes it is necessary to make a meal more suitable for some people's dietary needs, such as a low-fat diet, or those with certain health conditions. A low-fat diet may be beneficial in reducing blood cholesterol, lowering blood pressure and allowing loss of body weight. When cooking, avoid fat-rich ingredients and replace them with low-fat equivalents. Choosing an alternative recipe helps in obtaining a low-fat meal.



Things to think about

List products which contain a lot of fat and their low-fat equivalents.

Skills

1. Take three pieces of pork shoulder. Deep-fry one, bake another and boil the third. Then put each one on a piece of kitchen paper. What do you observe?

S9, S10, S12



Skills

1. Prepare a savoury (e.g. a cake or bread).
2. Stuff your savoury with a filling, glaze it, and bake.

Sources of fats

You already know that fats are present in animal- and plant-derived foods, both in visible and invisible form. When selecting ingredients, you might like to use the table below to calculate how much fat your dish will contain.

Ingredient	Amount of fat in grams per 100 g	Ingredient
Pork meat, lean (raw)	4.0	Whipping cream
Beef meat, lean (raw)	4.0	Sunflower seeds
Chicken breast, raw	4.8	Soybeans (boiled)
Salmon (raw)	15.0	Bacon rashers, smoked
Cod (raw)	0.6	Ham, cooked
Eggs, whole	9.0	Avocado, raw
Milk, whole	3.6	Olives, pickled
Butter	82	Walnuts

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Check your understanding

1. Which of the following statements about fats is TRUE? (1 mark)
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| a. They are unhealthy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. They are necessary. |
| b. People should avoid eating them. | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. They are harmful. |

2. Which of the following is UNTRUE? (1 mark)
- It is possible to reduce the amount of fats in food.
 - Fat deficiency might be fatal.
 - Plant-derived fats are usually saturated.
 - Animal-derived fats are usually saturated.

3. How much fat does a balanced diet contain? (1 mark)
- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| a. up to 5% | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. up to 35% | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. up to 10% |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|

4. Which of the following has the most total fat? (1 mark)
- | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| a. lettuce | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. cottage cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Cheddar |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------|

5. Name two plant-derived sources of saturated fats. (2 marks)

.....

6. Describe how two different preparation or cooking methods help to reduce fat in food. (4 marks)

1.....

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2.....

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7. Explain two effects of fat deficiency in the human body. (4 marks)

1.....

.....

.....

2.....

.....

.....

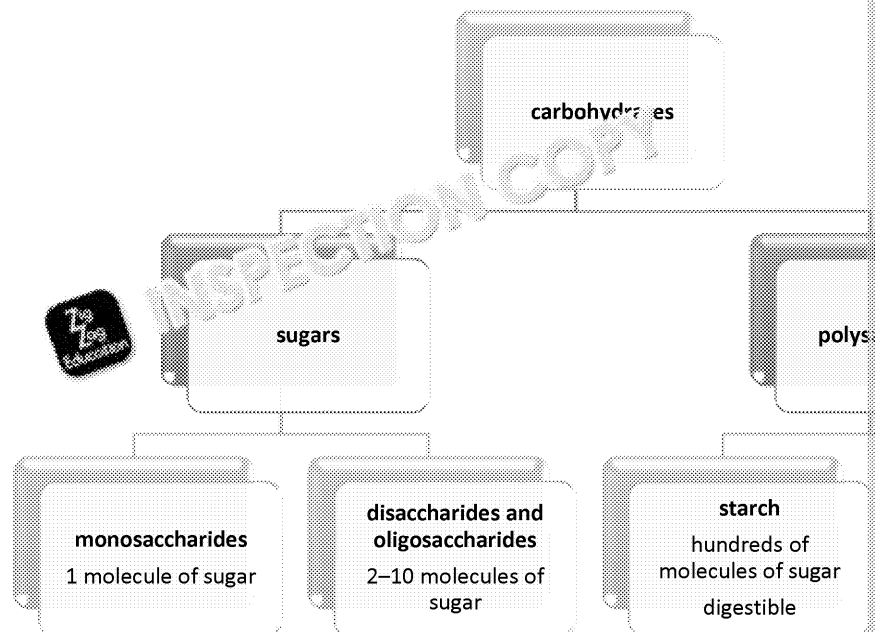
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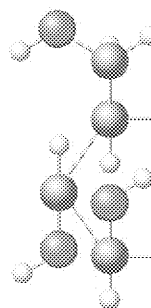
Carbohydrates and Dietary Fibre

Carbohydrates (also called saccharides) are molecules built from carbon, oxygen and hydrogen, created by plants as the effect of the process called photosynthesis. Carbohydrates are molecules called **monosaccharides**, such as glucose or fructose. They can be present as single molecules of sugars or bind together to form shorter or longer chains of **disaccharides**, **oligosaccharides** or **polysaccharides**. Monosaccharides are soluble in water, while polysaccharides are not – they form a suspension – a mixture in which starch molecules are hung.



The function of carbohydrates in the human body

Sugars and carbohydrates are necessary for the human body. They are the primary and most easily accessible source of energy, which means that they are used before any other nutrient (such as fat or protein). For that reason, they can also be called 'protein spacers'. During digestion, they are broken down to form glucose, which is the only substance that can be used by most cells, such as brain cells or muscles. Carbohydrates are stored in the liver, muscle cells and brain in the form of glycogen (ready to be used as energy).



However they also have other functions including:

- Sugars such as ribose and deoxyribose are the core elements of DNA – genetic material present in every cell of the body, which carries all the information.
- A polysaccharide called heparin is necessary for proper blood clotting.
- Together with cholesterol, sugars create corticosteroids, which are important hormones from the adrenal cortex. An example of this is cortisol – also called the stress hormone.
- With proteins, sugar create glycoproteins. An example of this is mucin – the thick and slimy.

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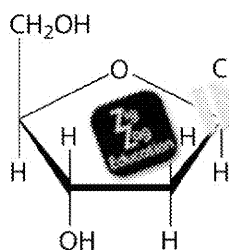


Sugars

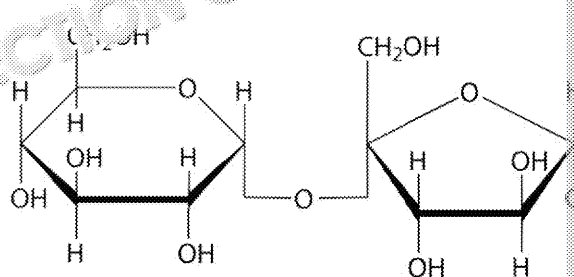
The group of sugars consists of mono-, di- and oligosaccharides. Their molecules contain from 1 to 10 molecules of sugar. The most basic monosaccharides are *glucose* and *fructose*. Together they can form a disaccharide called *sucrose* (table sugar). They occur in large amounts in processed grain products such as plain flour (and everything made with it), white rice, table sugar, honey, syrups, soda drinks, sweets and most fruits. Sugars are also present in milk – that is because of the nutritional requirements of a baby. The amount of milk sugar varies depending on the species (human milk is around 7% sugar, cow milk around 4.5% and sheep milk around 5.5%). The sugar in milk is built of glucose and galactose and is known as *lactose*.



Fruit and



A molecule of fructose

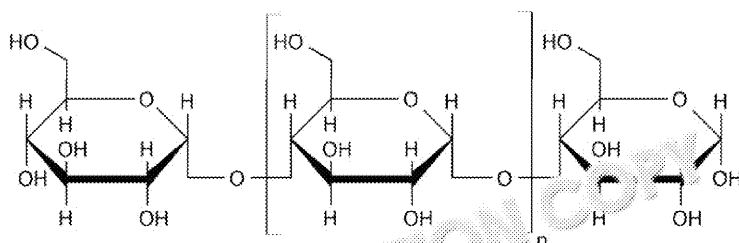


A molecule of glucose joins the molecule of fructose to form sucrose – known as table sugar

Polysaccharides

Polysaccharides are carbohydrates which consist of more than 10 molecules of sugar. Starch is a common polysaccharide. Those which can be broken down by the enzymes in the human gut are called digestible polysaccharides. It is a concentrated energy source. During digestion, it is broken down into glucose by the enzymes present in the saliva and pancreas juice. In this form, it can be absorbed (transported from the gut to the blood) and then carried to the tissues (such as muscles) or to the liver (where it can be stored for later use in the form of glycogen). Important sources of starch in the human diet are whole grains (such as wheat, rye, brown rice, buckwheat, and oats) and their derivatives (such as wholegrain bread or pasta), legumes, potatoes or parsnips.

When absorbed, polysaccharides are broken down into glucose.



Amylose is an example of starch

The second group of polysaccharides is called **dietary fibre**. There are two types of dietary fibre: soluble and insoluble.

1. Insoluble fibre is crucial for normal performance of the intestines. It can control bowel movements and, therefore, regulate the bowel's performance. Studies show that it can lower the risk of bowel and breast cancer. Insoluble fibre is mostly found in whole grains, fruit, and vegetables.
2. Soluble fibre slows down the ingestion of sugar and, therefore, prevents high blood sugar levels. This plays an important role in preventing sugar intolerance and type 2 diabetes. It also lowers blood cholesterol levels, helping to protect the heart from excess cholesterol. Soluble fibre is present in oats, apples, bananas, cooked fruit and vegetables, and dried fruit.

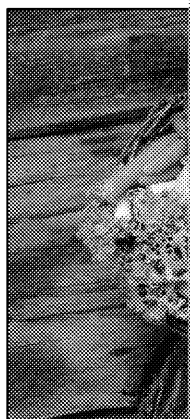
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Most vegetables, fruits, grains and legumes are also rich in fibre, especially when



Whole grains are a good source of nutrients, vitamins and fibre



Fruit and vegetables are a good source of nutrients, vitamins and fibre



Things to think about

Try to explain why eating fruit is better than eating sweets.

Effects of deficiency and excess

The excess of carbohydrates (especially sugars) is the main cause of many health

Health issue	Explanation
Increase of blood sugar level	Sugar doesn't have to be broken down quickly, causing blood sugar levels to rise
Increased risk of type 2 diabetes	To prevent blood sugar levels from rising, the pancreas has to produce a lot of insulin. Over time, the pancreas just can't keep up, and high blood sugar levels damage the tissues in the body, causing the disease
Overweight and obesity, fattening of the liver	Excess sugar is transformed into fat in the form of fat tissue
Loss of skin and joint flexibility	Because sugar crystals destroy the collagen in the skin and joints
Increased risk of candidosis	A condition caused by the <i>Candida</i> fungus growing on the sugar; may appear as a white tongue coating or low immunity
Tooth decay	Bacteria that live in your mouth love sugar and will eat away at your tooth enamel

The deficiency of carbohydrates is a rare condition and does not usually occur in healthy people. It is possible, though, to develop it as an effect of not eating enough. It is also a common side effect of a badly managed diet in diabetics. As a result, blood sugar levels drop (sometimes dramatically), causing hypoglycaemia. There are many symptoms indicating this, such as loss of control, nervousness or apathy (lack of motivation), drowsiness, tiredness, hunger, shaking and acceleration of the heartbeat. Usually, consuming something sugar-rich (such as a piece of chocolate or a sip of soda) helps. In severe hypoglycaemia, loss of consciousness may occur – such people require immediate medical attention.

Insufficient consumption of fibre also can lead to a number of problems. If there is constipation and it increases the risk of inflammatory bowel diseases and even bowel cancer. It can cause diarrhoea and bloating, and affect the absorption of minerals.

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Dietary reference values

According to SACN (Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition) 2015 recommendations, carbohydrates should make up around 50% of total calorie intake, which for a typical diet of 2000 kcal a day makes around 250 g of carbohydrates. The World Health Organisation also encourages lowering the intake of sugars to 5% of total daily calorie intake, which equals up to 25 g. That is around five teaspoons of sugar or honey, a glass of soda or fruit juice, half a bar of milk chocolate or one serving of vanilla ice cream.

Research

Try to find out why eating fresh fruit is healthier than drinking fruit juice.



think about

Think of three ways of increasing the amount of fibre in a meal.

Skills

1. Make two bread roll doughs, one with plain flour and one with high-fibre (wholegrain) flour. Leave for 30 minutes to prove. Write down your observations.

S17



Skills

1. Make a meal using corn starch as a substitute for flour. How long does it take to cook?

Sources of carbohydrates

When developing recipes, it might sometimes be necessary to lower the sugar content of a recipe. The table below shows the quantities of complex carbohydrates, sugars and fibre in a variety of food commodities.

	Starch	Sugars
White bread	45.8 g	3.0 g
Wholemeal bread	39.3 g	2.8 g
White rice, boiled	85.4 g	0.2 g
Brown rice, boiled	29.0 g	0.1 g
Potatoes, peeled (baked)	17.3 g	0.7 g
Potatoes, with skin (baked)	22.2 g	1.4 g
White pasta, boiled	36.1 g	1.1 g
Wholemeal pasta, boiled	27.5 g	-
Carrots, raw	0.1 g	7.2 g
Apples	-	11.6 g
Green beans, boiled	0.9 g	3.0 g
Prunes	19.0 g	38.0 g

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Check your understanding: carb

1. Which of the following has the highest fibre content? (1 mark)
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| a. wholegrain bread with beans | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. white bread |
| b. wholegrain bread with cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. white bread |

2. Which of the following is TRUE? (1 mark)
- a. Dietary fibre causes bloating and digestive problems.
 - b. Polysaccharides are found in sweets.
 - c. Milk is a source of sugar.
 - d. Sugars cause hypoglycaemia.

3. How much sugar should be consumed as part of a healthy diet? (1 mark)
- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| a. up to 10% | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. up to 15% |
| b. up to 5% | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. up to 50% |

4. Excess consumption of sugars can lead to... (1 mark)
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| a. measles | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. skin rash |
| b. loss of consciousness | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. tooth decay |

5. State two health benefits of eating a high-fibre diet. (2 marks)

1

2

6. Explain whether fruit juice should be drunk to replace fresh fruit in a diet.

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7. Give two reasons why wholemeal bread is healthier than white bread.

1

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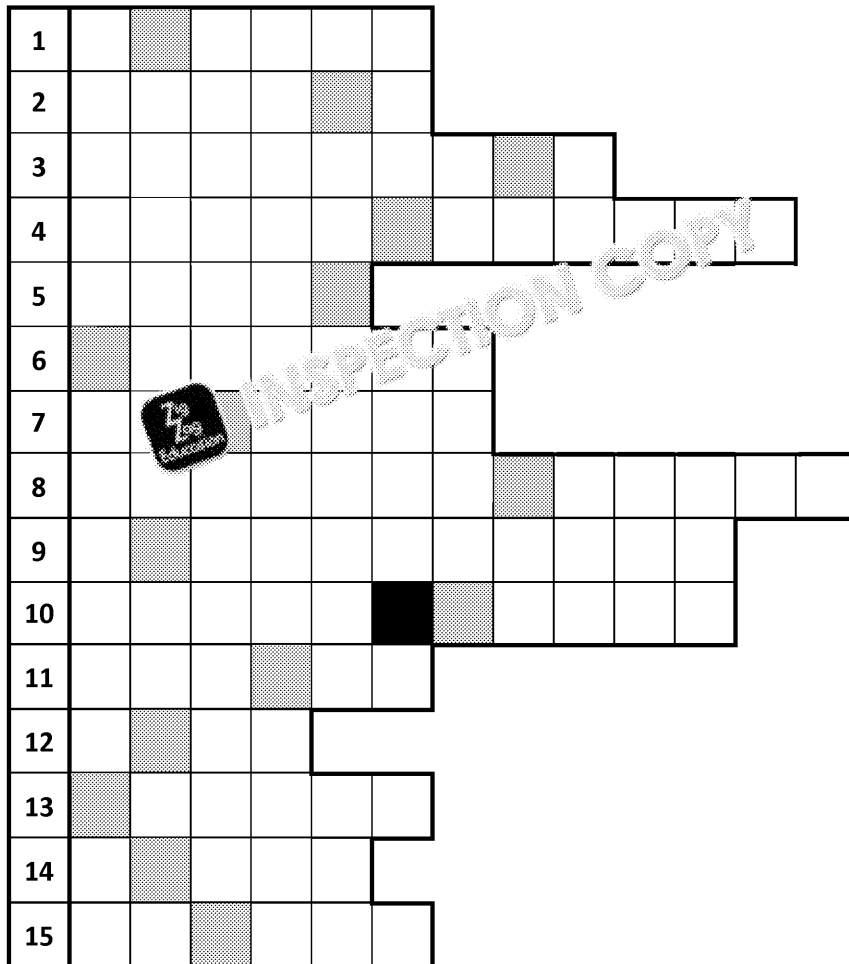
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Chapter 1: Quiz-ine

Fill in the answers to the questions below to reveal a word relevant to macronutrients (black squares are spaces between words).



1. The main function of carbohydrates is to work as a protein _____ (6)
2. Protein alternative cereal which provides HBV protein (6)
3. Type of fibre responsible for healthy bowel movements (9)
4. Chemical name for a fat molecule (12)
5. ____-fats are the harmful type of fats (5)
6. Pear-shaped fruit rich in polyunsaturated fats (7)
7. Disaccharide found in milk (7)
8. Very low blood sugar level (13)
9. The 'bad' type of this molecule can cause heart disease (11)
10. Building blocks of protein (5, 5)
11. This value is measured in calories (6)
12. ____ biological value protein is present in soy and meat (4)
13. Type of chemical bonds in unsaturated fats (6)
14. A person who doesn't eat any produce of animal origin (5)
15. Legumes and grains together complement the amount of this amino acid (6)

The shaded squares reveal this word:

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Chapter 2: Micronutrients

Overview

In this chapter we will look at micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) and water – the ingredients that keep us healthy and in good condition. This chapter will explain what the function of certain micronutrients is and where to find them. We will also investigate what amount of micronutrients a person needs.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ☐ list fat-soluble and water-soluble vitamins
- ☐ identify the main sources of vitamins and minerals
- ☐ understand the meaning of micronutrients
- ☐ describe and identify effects of micronutrient deficiencies
- ☐ explain the related reference nutrient intake
- ☐ identify and understand the role of antioxidants
- ☐ monitor the micronutrient and water intake

Key Terms

Micronutrient



A substance which is needed by the organism in small amounts, such as vitamins and minerals, measured in micrograms or milligrams

Vitamin

A group of organic chemical molecules essential to the body; they might be natural or synthetic; all are vitamins; thus, they have to be provided as a supplement

Minerals

A group of inorganic chemical molecules essential to the body

Antioxidant

A substance or molecule that prevents oxidation

Dietary reference value

An estimation of the requirement for a certain nutrient in accordance with sex and age; may be given as a range

Thiamine

The chemical name of vitamin B1

Riboflavin

The chemical name of vitamin B2

Niacin

The chemical name of vitamin B3

Ascorbic acid

A different name for vitamin C

Sodium chloride

The chemical name of kitchen salt

Hydrogen oxide

The chemical name of water

Reference nutrient intake

The amount of a micronutrient that is enough for an average person in the population

Metabolism

A number of chemical processes that take place in the body for survival; these processes include catabolism ('breaking down to obtain energy') and anabolism (building up substances from their resources with the use of energy)

Oxidation

A process in which free radicals 'steal' electrons from other molecules



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Micronutrients

Micronutrients are organic compounds (**vitamins**) and inorganic compounds (**minerals**) that are required in small amounts. If the amount is very small, we call them trace elements. Iron, iodine and zinc are trace elements, while calcium, sodium and phosphorus are quantity elements. Micronutrients properly conduct all bodily functions and chemical reactions in cells and tissues.

Vitamins

Vitamins are a group of organic substances necessary for a proper functioning of the human body. Vitamins may be natural – meaning that they occur naturally in foods – or synthetic, made in a laboratory. Vitamins cannot be produced by the human body and, therefore, have to be provided as part of a healthy diet. The human body needs them in small amounts only – usually milligrams or micrograms.

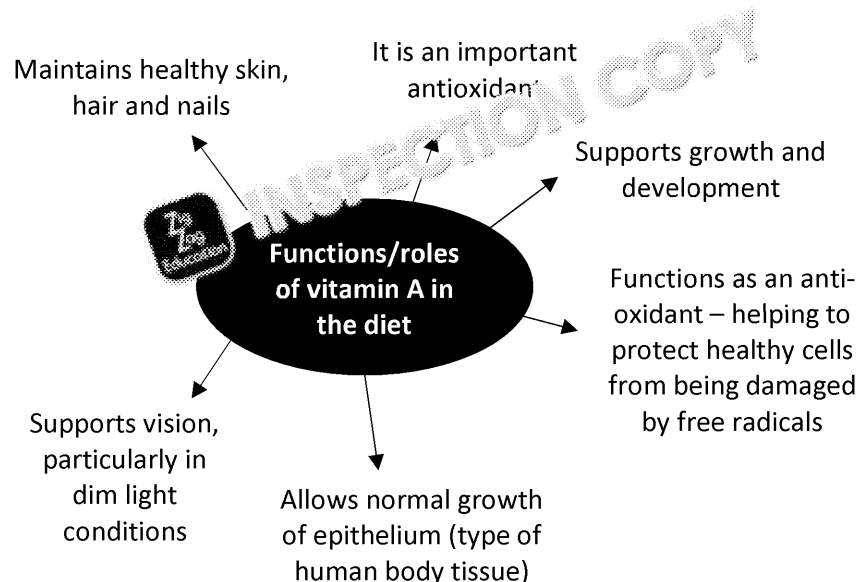
There are two main groups of vitamins: fat soluble and water soluble. A complete lack of vitamins is called *avitaminosis*, while a low level of vitamins is called *hypovitaminosis* and an excess of vitamins is called *hypervitaminosis*. Specially designed laboratory tests can check whether there are enough vitamins in a blood sample, and a doctor can then suggest a treatment or supplementation.

Fat-soluble vitamins, their functions and sources

Fat-soluble vitamins are vitamins A, D, E and K. Like all other vitamins, they cannot be synthesized by the body and, therefore, need to be provided as part of a healthy diet. The amount is measured in micrograms. Since they are fat soluble, they are stored in the fat tissue and are excreted with urine or sweat.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A comes in two types: retinol and beta-carotene. Retinol derives from animal sources such as oily fish, dairy products (such as whole milk, cheese and butter) and eggs, while beta-carotene is mostly found in red, yellow and green fruits and vegetables, such as tomatoes, watermelon, carrots, pumpkin, broccoli or parsley leaves. Beta-carotene is present in many foods and is converted to Retinol in the liver.



1 gram = 1000 milligrams

D

The first discoverer of Vitamin A was a Polish scientist, Casimir Funk.

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Vitamin A deficiency may cause:

- brittle hair and nails
- dry and flaky skin
- rash
- eyesight problems – especially after dusk

Vitamin A excess may cause:

- yellow shade of the skin
- swelling of the liver and spleen (since the liver is involved in metabolism)
- itching
- headaches
- hair loss

It might also be harmful for the baby when the mother is taking too much.

Did you know?

The condition caused by the lack of vitamin A is called 'night blindness'. It means that a person can't see when there is little light, e.g. after dusk, at night or in dark rooms.



Did you know?

Epithelium is the tissue that lines all of your organs, including your skin, eyes, nose and mouth.

Reference nutrient intake of vitamin A

Vitamin A is needed in small doses. The following table indicates the number of micrograms of vitamin A needed each day for different stages of life for both males and females:

Age	Reference Nutrient Intake (micrograms)	
	males	females
0–1 yrs	350	
1–7 yrs	400	
7–10 yrs	500	
11–14 yrs	600	600
15–50+ yrs	700	
pregnancy	-	+100
lactation	-	+350

Reference nutrient intake for vitamin A in micrograms, in accordance to age and sex, British Nutrition Foundation 2016

Research

Check and compare the amount of beta-carotene in raw carrot, cooked carrot and carrot juice.



Things to think about

Explain why there is more vitamin A in whole milk than in skimmed milk. Remember that whole milk is fortified by law.



Things to think about

Discuss why eating offal (especially liver) is not recommended during pregnancy.

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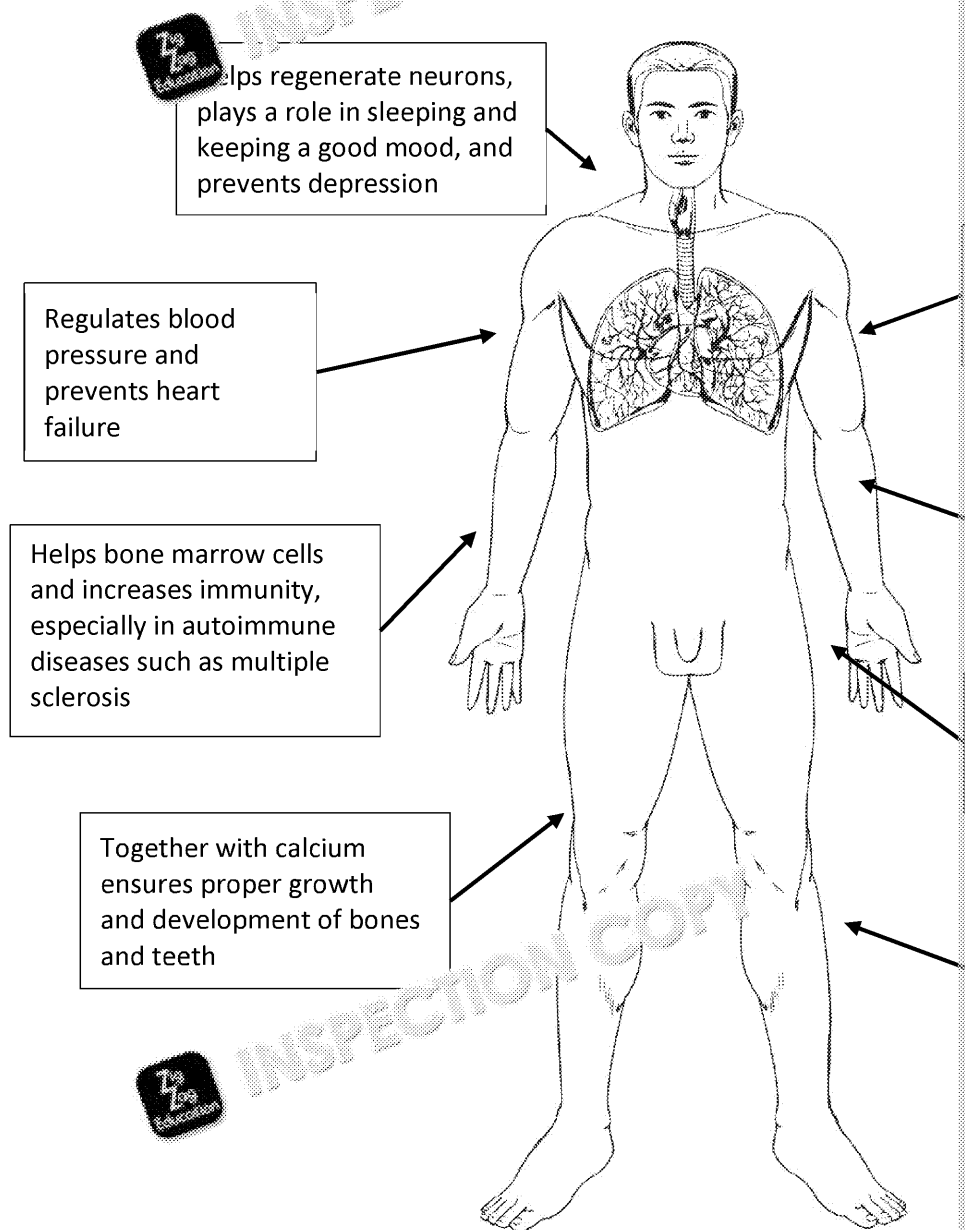
Vitamin D

Vitamin D is also known as cholecalciferol. The foods that are richest in vitamin D are fish such as *salmon*, *cod*, *tuna*, *mackerel* or *herring*, and *fish oil*. Large amounts of this vitamin are also found in *liver*, *cheese* and *egg yolk*. Sometimes synthetic vitamin D is added to certain products to make up the amount after processing – for instance, to breakfast cereals or margarines. What's important, **vitamin D is produced in the skin** as a result of exposure to the sun.



To maintain health

For a long time, it was known to be crucial for the health of bones and teeth, but according to the most recent studies it is essential for a proper performance of nearly all of the body's cells. The function of vitamin D in the human body is shown in the image underneath.



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Things to think about

Looking at the image above, discuss the potential effects of vitamin D

Vitamin D deficiency

- rickets and osteoporosis (brittle bone disease)
- soft and easy-to-break bones
- decrease of immunity
- lower mood and depression
- increased risk of autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's disease or multiple sclerosis
- increased risk of cancer

Vitamin D

- nausea
- diarrhoea
- skin it
- feeling

Vitamin D deficiency symptoms are usually caused by not eating vitamin D-rich foods or by avoiding tanning (which in excess is also harmful!).

Did you know?

Vitamin D plays the role of an important hormone.

Crohn's disease is a condition in which the lining of the whole digestive tract is inflamed, causing painful and long-lasting problems with ingestion.



Research

Find out about the effects of Crohn's disease on zzed.uk/8255-crohns

Reference nutrient intake for vitamin D

The SACN (Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition) **recommends a RNI for vitamin D**. However, since there is usually little sun in the United Kingdom, some doctors may increase that dose, either by consuming more fish or by taking supplements (such as cod liver oil).

Research

Discover more about vitamin D in this SACN report: zzed.uk/8255-health



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Vitamin E¹

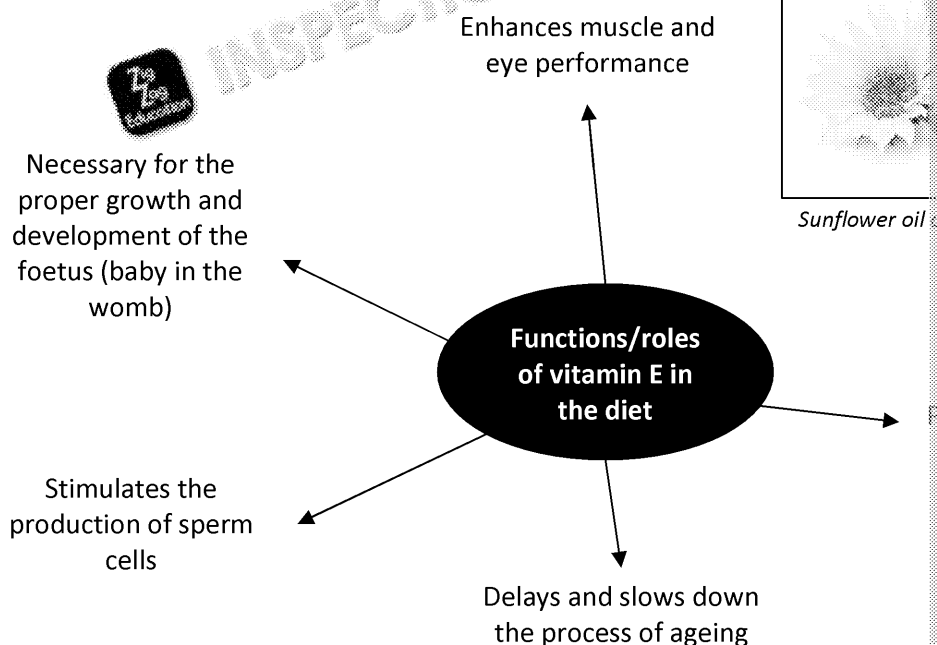
Vitamin E is also known as tocopherol, due to its unique properties. There are large quantities of tocopherols in vegetable oils and margarines, sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds, hazelnuts and almonds, as well as in certain fruits and vegetables, such as spinach, kale and blueberries.

Research

Go to the nearest food store and try to find products that contain vitamin E. Also check the chemist's, since it is a common ingredient of many face creams. Can you tell why?

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Vitamin E deficiency

- tiredness
- wrinkling and thinning of the skin
- muscle degeneration
- loss of immunity

Vitamin E excess (vitamin toxicity)

- headaches
- stomach problems
- sight issues

Like vitamins A and C, vitamin E is also an important **antioxidant**, which means that it prevents and reverses the effects of oxidation. This is advantageous because it prevents ageing and carcinogenesis (the forming of a cancer lump). You can learn more about antioxidants on page 31.

The NHS recommends that men should eat 4 mg and women should eat 3 mg of vitamin E daily.

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¹ Vitamin E is not required by the specification, however it is included here as one of the fat-soluble vitamins.

Vitamin K²

Vitamin K is unique, because it is mainly produced by bacteria living in the gut.

Some amounts of vitamin K may be found in vegetables such as kale, sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, avocado and potatoes. Little amounts are also present in eggs, cheese and meat.

Vitamin K plays vital role in blood clotting, as well as in proper calcium **metabolism**.

Vitamin K deficiency

- excessive bleeding
- trouble with healing wounds
- bone demineralisation
- easy-to-break bones

Vitamin K excess (rare)

- degradation of red blood cells
- excessive sweating and feeling hot
- jaundice (yellow skin) and brain damage in newborns



Eating excess vitamin K during pregnancy may cause jaundice in newborns

A person needs approximately 1 mcg of vitamin K daily. This can usually be provided as part of a balanced diet. However, if there are blood clotting troubles – should that vitamin be provided by shots or tablets.



Things to think about

Discuss why vitamin K shots are recommended for newborns.

Skills

1. Choose two kinds of fish – one oily and one lean, and try to fillet them.
2. Choose three kinds of vegetables or fruit – such as avocado, apple and banana. Cut each one into even pieces – either cubes or slices.

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² Vitamin K is not required by the specification, however it is included here as one of the factors

Water-soluble vitamins, their functions and sources

Water-soluble vitamins include group B vitamins and vitamin C. In the group B vitamins there are around 12 different substances. Since all water-soluble vitamins dissolve easily in water, they are not stored in the body and are excreted with urine or sweat. For this reason, their regular intake in appropriate amounts is highly recommended. Luckily, they are present in large amounts in a large variety of foods.

Name	Function	Effects of deficiency	Effects of overdose
Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)	Takes part in the metabolism of carbohydrates; is an important part of numerous enzymes	Beri-beri disease, which shows as the degeneration of nerves and muscle	Practically impossible to overdose, but taking excessive amounts of vitamin shot
Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)	Important part of enzymes; takes part in creating haemoglobin	Cracked and dry lips (especially in the corners of the mouth), dry skin	No known side effects
Vitamin B3 (Niacin)	Helps release energy from food; takes part in the production of red blood cells; has a positive effect on the performance of the nervous system; extends blood vessels, which helps deliver oxygen to the tissues	4D syndrome – Dermatitis (inflammation of skin), Diarrhoea, Dementia (loss of memory), Death; low concentration (inability to focus); irritability; increased sensitivity of the skin to sunlight	Reddening, itchiness and dryness of skin, nausea
Folate/folic acid (Vitamin B9)	Important in the process of DNA synthesis; takes part in creating red blood cells; reduces the risk of spinal cord diseases in newborns	A disease called <i>spina bifida</i> in newborns; anaemia (lack of red blood cells)	No known side effects
Vitamin B12 (Cobalamine)	Together with folic acid, takes part in creating red blood cells	Anaemia (lack of red blood cells); might occur in vegans if not supplemented	No known side effects

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Name	Function	Effects of deficiency	Effects of excess
Vitamin C (Ascorbic acid)	Takes part in collagen synthesis; helps absorb iron; increases immunity; strengthens blood vessels; acts as an antioxidant	Decrease in immunity ; a disease called scurvy, which shows as bleeding, receding, weak gums leading to loss of the teeth; anaemia (due to the impaired iron ingestion); slow wound healing; excessive bleeding	Occurs very rarely, but may show as nausea and diarrhoea

Water-soluble vitamins: functions, sources, effects of excess and deficiency



Think about

Discuss why it is beneficial to eat meat along with a salad (or a burger with a pickle).

Loss of water-soluble vitamins

Water-soluble vitamins are usually very sensitive to such external factors as high temperature, oxygen, high pressure or light. This means that during preparation (storing, cleaning, peeling, cutting, etc.) and cooking (baking, boiling, roasting, grilling...) the amount of vitamins in the food decreases.

Find ways of preventing vitamin loss in the table below.

Factor causing vitamin loss	How to prevent it
High temperature	Try to cook your meal as quickly as possible; for example, potatoes, boil the water first and then add potatoes to cold water, since they will take longer to cook.
Oxygen	Cut fresh vegetables and fruit into bigger pieces. Cover them immediately into ice-cold water OR, if preparing a salad, immediately with dressing to prevent contact with air.
High pressure	Try the lowest pressure possible OR reduce the time of cooking.
Light	Store your food and ingredients in dark, possibly in a refrigerator.
Water	Since group B vitamins and vitamin C are soluble in water, it is possible when cooking and try not to waste it when reusing it, e.g. to prepare a soup or sauce.

Factors that destroy vitamins: loss and ways of preventing them

Research

Find and compare the amount of vitamin C in fresh oranges, freshly squeezed orange juice from concentrate. Do they differ? Why / why not?



Things to think about

Try to explain which of the following has more vitamins: frozen vegetables or fresh vegetables.

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Dietary reference values

As you already know, vitamins are needed by the body in very small amounts. Use part of a healthy, balanced diet, but sometimes it is necessary to supplement them with tablets, shots, etc. The reference nutrient intake for water-soluble vitamins is shown below.

Age	Thiamine (vit. B1) (mg)		Riboflavin (vit. B2) (mg)		Niacin (vit. B3) (mg)		Folic acid (mcg)	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
10 y	0.7		1.0		12		150	
14–18 y	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.1	18	14	200	
18–50 y	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.1	17	14	200	
50+ y	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.1	16	12	200	

Reference nutrient intake for water-soluble vitamins with regard to age and sex, British Dietetic Association

Water-soluble vitamins are present in a variety of food products, such as vegetables and fruits. The best source of group B vitamins is yeast – you can find it in baked products as well as in Marmite. The quantities of group B vitamins provided with a single portion (8g) of Marmite are shown below.

	per 100 g	per portion
Thiamine	5.8 mg	0.23 mg
	(572% NRV)	(21% NRV)
Riboflavin	7.0 mg	0.28 mg
	(500% NRV)	(20% NRV)
Niacin	160 mg	6.4 mg
	(1000% NRV)	(40% NRV)
Folic acid	2500 µg	100 µg
	(1250%)	(50% NRV)
Vitamin B12	15 µg	0.6 µg
	(600% NRV)	(24% NRV)

Marmite® is a source of B-group vitamins (source: marmite.co.uk); NRV = nutritional reference value



Yeast is a rich source of B-group vitamins. It is often bought fresh or dried, and is used in bread, cakes, and other baked goods.

1. Steam, boil, or bake potato. Measure which of the following is the best source of B-group vitamins.
2. Cut an apple into small pieces. Leave for 10 minutes. Write down your observations.

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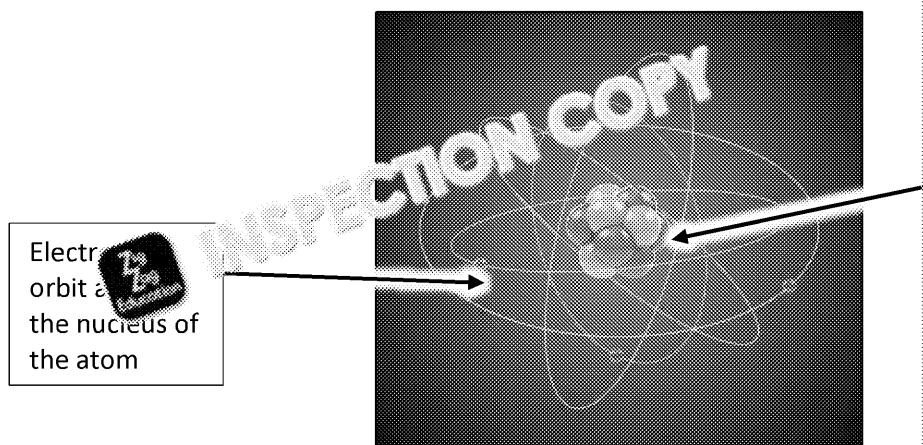


Additional Reading: Antioxidants

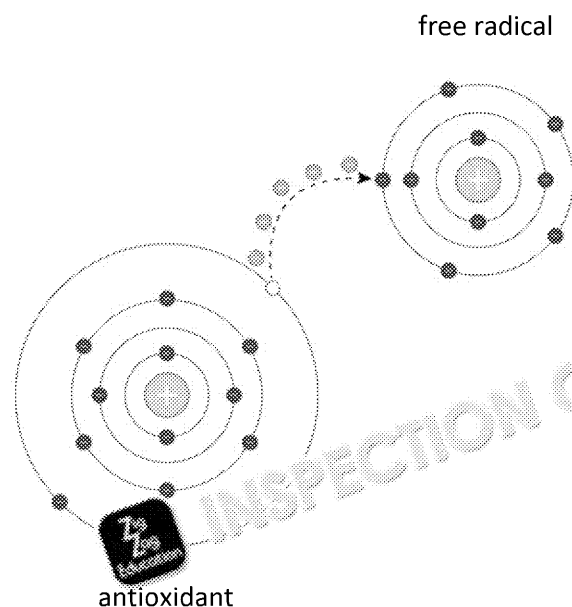
Some of the vitamins play an important role in preventing certain substances in the body from oxidation. That includes **vitamin A, vitamin E and vitamin C**.

Antioxidants are natural substances that help protect the cells from damage caused by **free radicals** (oxygen molecules that lack one of the electrons).

An atom, or a group of atoms (a molecule), has protons, neutrons and electrons. While protons and neutrons are packed tightly in an atom's nucleus, the electrons orbit the nucleus.



Electrons can exist in different orbits – the one closest to the core always has two electrons. If the outermost orbit isn't full, the molecule will strain to fill the orbital. For example, a free radical has one electron on its second orbit, and so they try to 'steal' electrons from other molecules. This can affect the electric charge of biological molecules, leading to an accelerated ageing process and carcinogenesis (formation of cancer lumps). Vitamins A, C and E, together with other antioxidants, help prevent that from happening, and, therefore, help maintain youth and health.



A

Think about many antioxidants.

Skills

1. Prepare a list of ingredients for browning?
2. Prepare a list of antioxidants?

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Check your understanding: Vitamins

- Which of the following is the best source of fat-soluble vitamins? (1 mark)
 - banana ☐
 - milk ☐
 - bread ☐
 - avocado ☐
- Lack of which of the following vitamins can cause tooth decay and osteoporosis? (1 mark)
 - vitamin A ☐
 - vitamin E ☐
 - vitamin D ☐
 - vitamin K ☐
- Which one of the following vitamins helps with proper blood clotting? (1 mark)
 - vitamin A ☐
 - vitamin D ☐
 - vitamin E ☐
 - vitamin K ☐
- Which one of the following vitamins is an antioxidant? (1 mark)
 - vitamin B1 ☐
 - vitamin B3 ☐
 - vitamin C ☐
 - vitamin B12 ☐
- Which of the following vitamins is crucial for proper spinal cord development? (1 mark)
 - thiamine ☐
 - ascorbic acid ☐
 - niacin ☐
 - folic acid ☐
- Identify three water-soluble vitamins and indicate one source of each. (3 marks)

Vitamin	

- Explain why a lack of vitamin C may lead to vitamin deficiency. (2 marks)



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Minerals

Minerals are inorganic substances needed by the organism in small amounts. They have various functions, since they are part of important proteins, enzymes and other active molecules. Some minerals can be produced by the body and, therefore, have to be provided through food and water (e.g. sodium in bones or hair), activate or build enzymes (such as iron in haemoglobin), maintain salt balance (e.g. potassium in cells, magnesium in nerves) and maintain proper structure of certain proteins. Minerals can be divided into quantity minerals, which are needed in larger amounts (e.g. calcium), and trace elements, which are needed in minute amounts only (such as iodine).

Calcium and phosphorus³

Calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P) are minerals which, together with vitamin D, are crucial for the health of bones and teeth. For proper absorption, they need to be provided through the diet in the right proportion – ideally 1:1.

In the diet, calcium and phosphorus should be provided in a 1:1 ratio.

The best source of calcium and phosphorus is milk – also because it contains lactose, which aids absorption. Other sources include yogurt, buttermilk, cheese and cottage cheese. Bones can also be eaten together with the bones (such as sardines). Large amounts of Ca and P are found in seeds, but their digestibility is not very good due to large amounts of fibre. Calcium is also present in water – especially 'hard' water.

Other functions of calcium include:

- conducting stimuli along nerves and muscles
- ensuring proper muscle performance, including heartbeat
- maintaining healthy blood pressure

Other functions of phosphorus include:

- taking part in cell metabolism (try to remember the NADPH molecule from Chemistry – the P stands for phosphorus)
- building DNA strands

Skills

1. Prepare what you think is a rich meal of calcium and phosphorus ingredients. What can you layering?

Calcium and phosphorus deficiency may occur if there is lack of dairy products in the diet (e.g. lactose intolerance or is a vegan). Prolonged deficiency of these minerals may lead to osteoporosis – conditions in which bones become soft and fracture-prone. Lack of calcium can also lead to heart problems (e.g. heart problems).

Excess calcium in the diet may cause constipation, nausea and lack of appetite, but also kidney stones.

Excess phosphorus slows down the absorption of calcium, which may lead to bone loss. It is important to keep the balance between the two minerals.

Research

Compare different types of cheese (e.g. soft cheese, cottage cheese, mozzarella) and their calcium content. Try to explain possible differences.

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³Phosphorus is not required by the specification but is covered here as it is an important function of calcium.

Dietary reference intake

Age	Calcium	
	male	female
11–18 yrs	1000	800
19–50 yrs	700	

Reference nutrient intake for calcium and phosphorus with regard to age and sex, British Dietetic Association

Apply



Read the labels of products which you have in your fridge and try to prepare a sandwich which will contain balanced amounts of calcium and phosphorus.



Study tip



Remember that water, along with milk and dairy products, is an important source of calcium and phosphorus.

Skills

1. Prepare a salad, soup or other meal. What ingredients will you use? Why?



Things to think about

1. Looking at the table above, try to explain why girls aged 14 to 18 need more calcium and phosphorus than boys the same age.
2. Try to think why there is a lot of phosphorus in ham and sausage.



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Iron

Iron is a mineral necessary for efficient transportation of oxygen by the blood. It is a component of haemoglobin – the substance which makes blood cells red. Without it, the red blood cells and oxygen cannot be transported from lungs to tissues.

FUNCTIONS

- necessary to build haemoglobin which transports oxygen to the cells
- increases immunity
- reduces tiredness

- red meat, poultry
- egg yolk
- legumes, nuts and seeds
- green vegetables
- beetroot

DEFICIENCY

- anaemia (lack of red blood cells)
- tiredness, lack of motivation (apathy)
- decreased iron in blood
- pale skin

- constipation
- hormonal disorders
- joint pains
- heart problems

Dietary reference intake

Age	Reference Nutrient Intake for Iron (mg)	
	male	female
11–18 yrs	11.3	14.8
19–50 yrs	8.7	14.8
50+ yrs	8.7	

Reference nutrient intake for iron with regard to sex and age, British Nutrition Foundation 2016



Things to think about

Discuss why girls and women need more iron than boys and men throughout their lives and why their need for iron drops after their 50th birthday.

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Fluoride

Fluoride is a chemical element necessary for the proper growth and development of enamel creation, making it the strongest natural substance found in the human body. It is essential for the prevention of tooth decay, and, therefore, it is the main active ingredient of many toothpastes.

FUNCTIONS

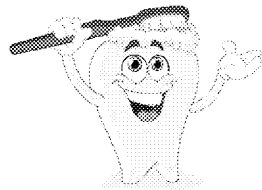
- necessary to build tooth enamel
- shields the teeth from bacteria and acid
- helps build healthy bones
- water
- fish and seafood
- black tea

DEFICIENCY

- increased risk of tooth decay
- osteoporosis (brittle bone disease)
- improper enamel formation
- stomach ache, diarrhoea
- heart and kidney problems



Did you know?



The main source of fluoride is toothpaste and mouthwash. It can easily be absorbed into the enamel, so you don't have to swallow it.



Research

Try to find whether your local tap water contains fluoride. Start by checking your local council website.



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Sodium⁴

Sodium is among the most important minerals for the human body. It is necessary for controlling the amount of liquid in body cells and between them (i.e. in blood and lymph vessels). It is also crucial for nerve impulse conduction and muscle contractions.

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for sc
from

It can be easily removed from the body – i.e. with urine, sweat and tears. That is v

Its main source is kitchen salt, but it is also present in large amounts in ham, sausages and meats, bread, and savoury snacks such as crackers.

Therefore, it is extremely rare to observe sodium deficiency. Nevertheless, if it happens (e.g. as a result of excessive sweating after running a marathon), it causes such symptoms as headaches, dehydration and a drop in blood pressure.

Much more important – and more obvious – is its excessive use, which can lead to hypertension (increased blood pressure), circulatory system diseases (including heart failure) and kidney diseases.

Healthy people should eat no more than 1600 mg of sodium daily, which is equivalent to around 4.0 g of kitchen salt (the maximum safe level of salt consumption has been set at 6.0 g a day).

A

Think
to de
salt in

Research

Read the labels of chosen products (such as ham, Cheddar, hotdogs, sauerkraut) and try to assess how many of them you can eat without exceeding the daily intake.

Apply



Salt is very important for the taste of a meal, but did you know that you can replace it by using herbs and spices? Try to find out which of them will help you obtain a low-salt, healthy and tasty meal.

Did you know?

Salt can be acquired from various sources as well as from the sea. Pink salt is sourced from ancient salt mines in Poland.



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⁴ Sodium is not required by specification but is discussed here as improper intake of Sodium affects public health in the UK.

Iodine

Iodine is a chemical element necessary for the proper performance of the thyroid gland. It occurs in some quantities in sea water. A lack of iodine can have major health consequences (see table below) and, therefore, in many countries it is obligatory to fortify salt with iodine to prevent the problems of deficiency.

Did you know?

Iodine was supplied to many countries affected by iodine deficiency to prevent thyroid degeneration. It is a

FUNCTIONS

- necessary for the thyroid gland
- regulates growth and development
- regulates metabolism
- regulates body temperature

- fortified salt and sea fish and seafood
- can be inhaled (e.g. at the seaside)

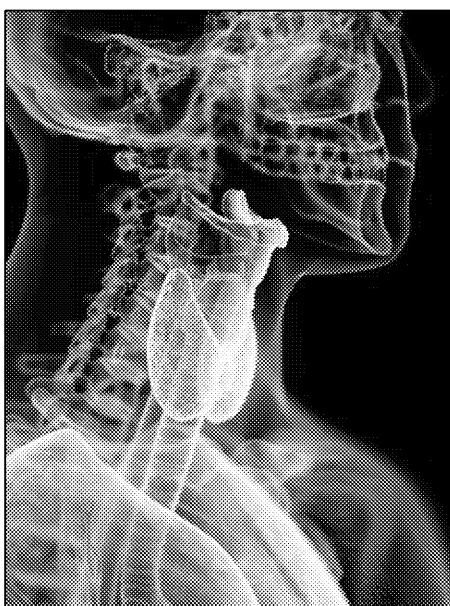
- lack of iodine can lead to difficulty remembering things
- during pregnancy, immaturity of the brain in the baby

- nausea, diarrhoea
- goitre (enlarged thyroid)
- cancer
- heart failure

Study tip



You can easily provide your body with iodine by simply breathing in the air at the seaside.



The thyroid gland lies at the front of the neck

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Potassium

Potassium, along with calcium, sodium, chloride and magnesium, is an important electrolyte, which means it helps to conduct electrical impulses in the body. Together with sodium it controls the blood pressure – although, while sodium increases it, potassium helps to lower it. It is also crucial for the proper contraction of muscles, including the heart.

Did you know?
Potassium is a member of the alkali metal group, allowing it to react with water, producing a strong alkaline solution and releasing hydrogen gas. It has a bitter taste.

FUNCTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> controls blood pressure necessary for muscle contractions controls heart activity supports production of proteins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> potatoes, yams milk, chocolate bananas, avocado nuts, dried fruit
DEFICIENCY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> weakness abnormal heart rate and arrhythmia paralysis of the respiratory system hypertension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nausea and vomiting breathing difficulties chest pain irregular heartbeat paralysis and heart failure have excess potassium

All people over 15 years old should consume up to 3500 mg of potassium a day with their diet.

Magnesium

Magnesium is a mineral necessary for carrying out hundreds of live functions in the body, including formation of the DNA strands. Magnesium absorption in the intestines is affected by high protein intake.

Did you know?
Magnesium is an essential electrolyte for the body, which helps to regulate the growth and development of the body.

FUNCTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> synthesis of energy building DNA muscle contractions increases bowel movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vegetables, especially leafy greens (e.g. spinach) nuts and cereals, whole grains mineral water
DEFICIENCY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> painful muscle contractions abnormal heart rate increased blood pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nausea and vomiting diarrhoea very low blood pressure slow heartbeat

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Reference Nutrient Intake for Magnesium in mg/day		
	Men	Women
11–14	280	
15–18	300	
19+	300	270

Did you know?
Magnesium is a mineral that is found in many foods, including Epsom salt, which is used in bath salts.



Research

Go to [zzed.uk/8255-nutrition-data](https://www.zzed.uk/8255-nutrition-data) and list the five foods with the highest magnesium content and the five foods with the lowest magnesium content.



Check your understanding: Minerals

1. Which statement about minerals is UNTRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. They are usually needed in smaller amounts than vitamins.
 - b. They are usually needed in bigger amounts than vitamins.
 - c. They are necessary for a number of bodily functions.
 - d. They are usually present in food and water.
2. What may be the effect of iron deficiency? (1 mark)

a. loss of teeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. loss of immunity
b. increased growth of hair	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. darkening of the skin
3. Which of the following contains the most magnesium? (1 mark)

a. spinach	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. bacon
b. lebanese feta	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. cream cheese
4. Potassium excess can cause... (1 mark)

a. decreased blood pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. hypertension
b. tooth decay	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. brittle bone disease
5. Cereals are a rich source of minerals. Identify two minerals found in cereals.
 1.
 2.
6. For one of the minerals given in Q5, state two of its functions in the body.

Mineral 1

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Mineral 2

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7. Explain how deficiency or excess of minerals can lead to hypertension.

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Water

Water (**hydrogen oxide**) is a chemical compound made of one atom of oxygen and two atoms of hydrogen. It occurs in nature in three physical states – solid (ice), liquid (water) and gas (vapour). Water is the most abundant substance on Earth – oceans cover 70% of the planet's surface!

Water is an important solvent for many different substances, such as minerals and vitamins.

It also has many applications: it is used to drink, to wash and clean, to water plants, to transport goods (from food to steel), to heat our houses and to extinguish fire.

Why is hydration important?

Water is necessary for survival – there is no questioning it! No living organism can survive without it. It is present in every cell – and beyond it (think of blood and lymph).

What exactly do we need water for?

- It dissolves substances (such as vitamins and minerals) and transports them around the body.
- It helps to move waste and toxins (think about urine).
- It is necessary in many chemical processes – both as an ingredient and as the environment in which to perform them.
- It helps maintain stable body heat (remember how you sweat on hot days).
- It keeps our tissues nice and moist (dry eye syndrome is not pleasant).
- It provides us with a number of minerals, including calcium and magnesium.
- It helps to swallow food.
- It ensures proper working of the colon and helps avoid constipation.

How do we lose water?	How do we gain water?
With sweat	Drinking water
With body waste (stool and urine)	Eating food
While breathing (think about that white cloud you breathe out on a cold day)	Eating fruit

It is necessary to keep the balance between water loss and water intake. Ideally, a teenager or adult should consume at least 1.5 litres of water a day – including all the water in the meals.

Sometimes extra fluid is needed – especially on hot days to counteract the effects of excessive sweating. Extra doses of water are also recommended if you have a fever and/or diarrhoea. Larger amounts of water (up to 2.5 litres) also help lose weight, so remember to drink more while on a diet.

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Deficiency of water is called *dehydration*. When dehydrated, you can observe that your skin is dry and wrinkled, you have dark patches around the eyes, your eyes are sunken, you use the toilet less often and the urine is very dark. Dehydration occurs as an effect of insufficient water supply and in response to excessive sweating.

Did you know?

Water makes up 75% of the body weight of a newborn baby and 50% in an adult.

Sources of water

You already know that water can be derived not only from drinks (liquids), but also from food. The table below shows how much water is present in chosen food commodities.

Newborn babies are 75% dehydrated.

Ingredient	% of water	Ingredient
White bread	36.1	Milk, whole
Chicken breast, baked	51.6	Cheddar cheese
White pasta, cooked	61.5	Eggs, whole, boiled
Carrots, raw	89.0	Chickpeas, boiled
Green peas, boiled	75.6	Potatoes, boiled
Cucumber, raw	96.5	Salmon, baked
Lettuce, raw	96.1	Parsnips, boiled

Different types of water

When shopping, you may have noticed that there are different brands and types of water. But do they really differ? UK legislation differentiates between bottled water, tap water and soft drinks with 'water' in the name. Bottled water can be further divided into mineral water, spring water and table water. Natural mineral water has to come from a natural source and be suitable for drinking without any treatment (except for adding CO₂ to make it sparkle).

Spring waters must come from natural underground sources and can undergo some treatment, e.g. removal of some minerals or undesirable substances. Tap water is treated and then bottled. Each type of water has a different mineral composition, and, this can bring additional benefits to certain people. For example, water which is high in calcium is good for teenagers and sportsmen, but it is best avoided by somebody with kidney stones.

Did you know?

Hard water contains high levels of calcium and magnesium residues, which can cause limescale.



There is a variety of bottled waters, and each of them brings different health benefits.

Research

Go to a food store and try to find mineral water with low (up to 500 mg), medium (from 501 to 1500 mg) and high (above 1501 mg) mineral content. You can also try to find out whether they taste different.

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Check your understanding:

1. Which one of the following allows the biggest water loss? (1 mark)
 - a. spitting ☐
 - b. crying ☐
 - c. urinating ☐
 - d. bleeding from a wound ☐
2. Which ingredients are usually found in water? (1 mark)
 - a. calcium and magnesium ☐
 - b. calcium and sugar ☐
 - c. magnesium and sodium ☐
 - d. calcium and salt ☐
3. Which is the best way of providing water to the body? (1 mark)
 - a. eating vegetables ☐
 - b. drinking water ☐
 - c. drinking soda ☐
 - d. eating fruit ☐
4. List three functions of water for the human organism. (6 marks)

1

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2

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3

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5. Explain how running a marathon on a hot day will affect water balance and offer advice on how to improve that balance. (4 marks)

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Complementary actions of nutrients

Various nutrients are present in different amounts in foods. In the human digestive system, changes, so that they can be broken down and absorbed into the bloodstream. The action of nutrients can be affected by other nutrients. We already discussed these in the Course Companion, so use this as a reminder when thinking about complementary actions of nutrients preparing for your exams.

Protein complementation

In many cultures and cuisines, different foods are often eaten together. This is not just for diet or a pleasant taste, but is also based on principles of nutrition. Eating grains and pulses helps to deliver essential amino acids. Amino acids are necessary to synthesise proteins. However, a protein is not built of one type of amino acid only – instead, it is necessary to have almost all amino acids to build a complete, working protein. For that reason, if there is a deficiency of one amino acid, a protein cannot be formed – even if there is an abundance of other amino acids.

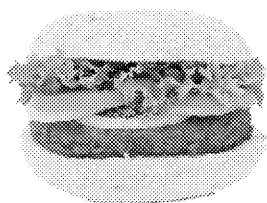
An example of protein complementation is Mexican tortilla, where the bread, which is made from maize, is served with pulses (red kidney beans), which are high in lysine.

Vitamin D, phosphorus and calcium

Vitamin D, phosphorus and calcium are necessary for maintaining bone health. Vitamin D is necessary for absorbing calcium and phosphorus from food in the intestines. In fact, a high-calcium diet will be useless if it is too low in vitamin D! Phosphorus combines with calcium to build the strong structure which forms the bones. If there is excess phosphorus, it binds with calcium and lowers the calcium level in the blood – resulting in high blood pressure and other health issues. To restore the correct level of calcium, the bones – and, therefore, they become brittle and easy to break. In addition, phosphorus can form plaque, which sticks to the walls of blood vessels and can increase the risk of heart disease.

Remember

Reserve calcium balance



Meat is often served accompanied by a salad. Vitamin C from vegetables significantly increases the absorption of iron from meat.

Iron and vitamin C

Iron is necessary for building haemoglobin. Without it, oxygen cannot be transported in the blood, which affects many life processes. Iron is usually absorbed in small amounts – usually only 20% to 35% of iron is absorbed in the intestine. This amount can be increased by consuming vitamin C. Moreover, vitamin C is also needed to keep blood vessels – so if there is not enough vitamin C, blood vessels can be damaged, and the red blood cells cannot be formed.

Dietary fibre and water

Dietary fibre has the ability to absorb water – as a result, it can bulk up in the stomach, giving the feeling of satiety and fullness, and it can pass easily through the intestines. Lack of water can cause constipation, as the fibre will not bulk up properly and the muscles in the bowels will struggle to push it forward. Additionally, water also provides certain amounts of magnesium and calcium, the absorption of which can be affected in high-fibre diets.

Dietary fibre and minerals

High consumption of dietary fibre can affect absorption of certain minerals, such as zinc in the intestine.

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Vitamins and fats

Vitamins such as A, D, E and K are fat-soluble. This means that they can only be absorbed if they are often present in plant foods, such as leafy green vegetables, it is advisable to eat them with a dressing or a sauce containing fat (e.g. vegetable oil), as otherwise the vitamins may not be absorbed.

Folic acid and vitamin B12

Folate and vitamin B12 are both involved in production of red blood cells. What's more, folate is absorbed without vitamin B12 (so a deficiency may occur even if your diet is very healthy), while vitamin B12 can only be absorbed in the presence of a special protein produced by the stomach. If this protein is deficient, this protein will cause vitamin B12 deficiency in the body even if your diet is rich in B12. This can lead to anaemia develops as a result of vitamin B12 deficiency (usually because the immune system is weakened, which enable vitamin B12 absorption), and megaloblastic anaemia develops.

Sodium and potassium

Sodium and potassium are necessary to maintain liquid levels in the body and control blood pressure. An imbalance between the two can result in either high or very low blood pressure, which can have serious health consequences, such as stroke, loss of consciousness, etc. This is because sodium has the ability to retain water in the body, while potassium is removed with urine and, therefore, the volume of blood increases. On the other hand, too much potassium can lead to remove sodium from the body (together with water), so the blood volume decreases.

Niacin and tryptophan

Tryptophan is one of the essential amino acids – this means that it cannot be built by the body and has to be provided as a part of a healthy diet. However, once absorbed, it can be converted into niacin (vitamin B3). So even if your diet is low in niacin, it is still possible that you can produce it using the tryptophan from food to make it!

Calcium and magnesium

You already know that calcium works with vitamin D and phosphorus to ensure bone health. Magnesium is a friendly mineral – it also cooperates with calcium to ensure that your muscles function properly. Both minerals are involved in a number of physiological processes:

- contraction and relaxation of muscle fibres
- contraction and relaxation of blood vessels (which help to control blood pressure)
- regulation of heart contractions
- conduction of nerve impulses

It is important to keep the balance between the two, as increased magnesium will lead to increased calcium in the blood, which will then be taken from the bones, weakening them. A low level of magnesium in the blood, and that can result in the painful cramps in your muscles.

Omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids

Omega-6 and omega-3 are essential fatty acids – this means that they cannot be built from scratch by your body and you need to provide them as a part of a healthy diet. The two types of fatty acids are processed by the body by the same enzymes, and it is necessary to consume them in the correct proportion so that the metabolism of one is not affected by the other. Ideally, they should come from the diet in a ratio of 3:1, respectively. This means that for every three grams of omega-6 fatty acids you should consume one gram of omega-3 fatty acids. An excess of omega-6 fatty acids is associated with an increased risk of arthritis (inflammation of joints) and some cancers (e.g. breast cancer and prostate cancer). A typical British diet is very rich in omega-6 fatty acids, and it is necessary to modify eating habits to incorporate more omega-3 fatty acids into the diet.

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As you can see above, a balanced diet is key for maintaining health. A deficiency of a nutrient can result in health issues. When planning a diet, remember that a good thing is a bad thing!



Check your understanding

Complementary actions of nutrients

1. Which one of the following inhibits iron absorption? (1 mark)

a. dietary fibre	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. vitamin C
b. calcium	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. vitamin D
2. Which mineral works with calcium to enable muscle contractions? (1 mark)

a. iodine	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. vitamin D
b. phosphorus	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. magnesium
3. Which is the correct ratio of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids in a healthy diet? (1 mark)

a. 1:1	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. 3:1
b. 10:1	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. 10:1
4. Identify two dietary causes of anaemia. (2 marks)
 1.
 2.
5. Identify two negative effects of high fibre consumption for health. (4 marks)
 1.
 2.

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1. The hardest natural substance in the human body (6)
2. Its deficiency can cause spina bifida disease in newborns (5, 4)
3. Caused by niacin deficiency, its symptoms are known as 4D syndrome (8)
4. Where vitamin D is produced in the body (4)
5. Effect of vitamin C deficiency, in which gums are receding and bleeding (6)
6. Swelling of the thyroid gland caused by iodine deficiency (6)
7. Irregular heartbeat caused by magnesium and calcium imbalance (9)
8. Form of vitamin A present in animal-derived foods (7)
9. Cardiac condition caused by low potassium and high sodium levels (12)
10. Gland which uses iodine to control metabolism (7)
11. Term used to describe the lack of water in the body (11)
12. Red pigment in the red blood cells, built from iron (11)




















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Answers – Macronutrients

Protein

Things to think about: (p. 5)

You can replace the beef in the steak pie and the lamb in the shepherd's pie with either soy and its derivatives (such as soy chunks, tempeh or tofu).

Things to think about: (p.5)

Quorn is not suitable for vegans because it contains egg white. It is suitable for vegetarians.

Things to think about: (p. 6)

People at the highest risk of developing protein deficiency are those who do not eat enough value, either because of food shortages (e.g. in poor countries or during war) or because of a badly managed vegetarian/vegan diet).

Things to think about: (p. 7)

The need for protein grows during periods of active growth, e.g. during adolescence. Protein becomes more important because muscles are bigger, heavier and contain more muscle. On the other hand, protein is also important during breastfeeding because of the growth and development of the baby. Sportspeople (such as bodybuilders) require more protein to build the desired muscle mass.

Check your understanding

- 1) B 2) B 3) D 4) C (1 mark for each correct, max. 4 marks)
- 5) Soya and quinoa. Accept other suitable answers. (1 mark for each correct, max. 2 marks)
- 6) 1 mark for each correct statement, max. 2 marks:
 - essential amino acids cannot be made by the human body from scratch, while non-essential amino acids can
 - essential amino acids have to be provided through the diet, while non-essential amino acids can be synthesized by the body
- 7) 2 marks for a detailed description, 1 mark for a basic description (max. 2 marks)

Answers could include reference to:

 - proteins are built of thousands of amino acids bonded together, and acid (or heat) destroys the chemical bonds within protein molecules
 - once the chemical bonds are damaged, the protein molecules begin to unfold and the protein molecule begins to be damaged
 - acid and heat cause denaturation, and the process is irreversible
 - concentration of the acid plays an important role: the higher the concentration, the faster the process will occur
 - the time of cooking/heating is also important: the longer the protein is heated, the faster it becomes denatured
 - if protein is overcooked/overheated, it shrinks and pushes out water; this is why meat becomes dry

Fats, Oils and Lipids

Things to think about: (p. 13)

High fat	
Pork, beef, lamb, duck or goose	Chicken, turkey
Salmon, eel, trout, herring, mackerel, pilchard	Cod, halibut, plaice, carp
Cheese, whole milk, cream, butter	Cottage cheese, low-fat cheese, buttermilk

Check your understanding

- 1) C 2) C 3) B 4) C (1 mark for each correct, max. 4 marks)
- 5) Any two from: (1 mark for each correct, max. 2 marks)
 - palm oil
 - palm kernel oil
 - cocoa butter
 - coconut oil

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- 6) 1 mark for correct identification of a preparation or cooking method (max. 2 marks)
1 mark for correct description/explanation of how it helps to reduce the fat content
Answers could include:
- **Removing skin from chicken breast or thighs** – the fat usually accumulates under the skin; we also remove the excess fat, and only the lean meat is left
 - **Grilling, baking** – excess fat will melt and drip off the food, so the final dish is lower in fat
 - **Skimming fat off a liquid** – this can be applied to, e.g. chicken broth, where the fat rises to the surface of the broth; another example is skimmed milk, from which fat has been removed
 - **Trimming** – cutting off the visible fat, e.g. from ham or pork chops will help to reduce the fat content
 - **Using egg whites only** – in eggs, fat is accumulated in the yolk only, so using egg whites (where possible) will help to lower the total amount of fat in the dish
 - Or any other suitable example
- 7) 1 mark for each correct effect of deficiency (max. 2 marks)
1 mark for each correct explanation (max. 2 marks)

Effect of deficiency	Explanation
Loss of body weight	If fat is accumulated in the body in the form of adipose tissue, and if it is deficient, the body will use the reserve, and this will lead to weight loss.
Vitamin deficiency	Fat is a solvent for vitamins such as vitamins A and D. If fat is deficient, these vitamins cannot dissolve and cannot be absorbed, leading to deficiencies.
Dry skin and keratosis	Fat, together with proteins, is used to build cell membranes. If fat is deficient, cell membranes cannot be built, and, therefore, the condition of the skin will be poor.
Decrease of immunity	Fat stimulates production of antibodies. Lack of fat means that antibodies cannot be built, leading to a decrease in immunity.
Growth disorders	Fat is used to build growth hormones. Fat deficiency means that growth hormones cannot be built, and, therefore, growth may be arrested.
Infertility	Fat is used to build sex hormones. Fat deficiency means that sex hormones cannot be built, which may result in infertility (due to arrest in the development of the reproductive system). Also, fat-soluble vitamin E is necessary for production of sperm. If fat is deficient, this vitamin will be deficient, leading to infertility.

Other correct answers may be accepted.

Carbohydrates and dietary fibre

Things to think about: (p. 17)

Although fruits are usually rich in sugars, they also contain fibre, which slows down the absorption of sugar into the blood. Therefore, the blood sugar level does not rise as dramatically as after eating sugar alone (or sweets).

Things to think about: (p. 18)

It is possible to increase the amount of fibre in many ways; for example, by replacing white bread with wholemeal bread and using brown or red rice instead of white rice. It is also possible by using wholemeal flour when preparing a dough, as well as by choosing fibre-rich products (e.g. wholemeal bread) with the bread (e.g. jam) or rice (e.g. adding more vegetables to a curry or stir-fry).

Check your understanding

- 1) A 2) C 3) E 4) D (1 mark for each correct, max. 4 marks)
- 5) 1 mark for each correct answer (max. 2 marks)
Any two of the following:
- regulates bowel movements
 - prevents constipation
 - prevents diarrhoea
 - helps to prevent bowel cancer
 - helps to prevent diverticulitis
 - lowers blood cholesterol levels
 - lowers blood sugar levels
 - helps to prevent type 2 diabetes
 - helps to maintain healthy body weight
 - gives the feeling of satiety
 - or any other suitable answer

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- 6) 1 mark for identifying whether the juice can be drunk instead of eating fresh fruit
1 mark for the relevant explanation (max. 1 mark)
Indicative content:
- Fruit juice should NOT be drunk instead of eating fresh fruit.
 - This is because juice is deprived of dietary fibre, and is a source of free sugar to increased blood sugar levels, and increases the risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes
- 7) 1 mark for each correct reason (max. 2 marks)
1 mark for each relevant explanation (max. 2 marks)
Indicative content:

Reason	Explanation
Wholemeal bread has more dietary fibre	Dietary fibre is necessary for a number of functions, slows down absorption of sugars and fats. For these reasons, eating wholemeal bread may help to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and hypercholesterolemia / atherosclerosis.
Wholemeal bread has less sugar	High consumption of sugar is linked to increased risk of obesity and tooth decay. Eating wholemeal bread means consuming less sugar, and that the risk of developing these conditions is reduced.
Wholemeal bread is naturally rich in minerals and vitamins	During milling, the bran is mixed together with the flour. Wholemeal bread contains high levels of iron, calcium and B vitamins. Wholemeal bread can be used in the prevention of iron deficiency anaemia, osteoporosis or beriberi.

Other suitable answers may be accepted.

Quiz-time

1. Sparer
2. Quinoa
3. Insoluble
4. Triglyceride
5. Trans
6. Avocado
7. Lactose
8. Hypoglycaemia
9. Cholesterol
10. Amino acids
11. Energy
12. High
13. Double
14. Vegan
15. Lysine

The shaded squares reveal this word: **polysaccharides**

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Answers – Micronutrients

Vitamins

Things to think about: (p. 23)

Whole milk has more fat than skimmed milk, and fat is necessary for vitamin A to dissolve. The law has to make up for this change and restore its nutritional value lost during processing of vitamin A in the population.

Things to think about: (p. 23)

Offal (such as liver) is usually very rich in vitamin A. It is not recommended during pregnancy as excess of vitamin A may be harmful for the baby, resulting in congenital defects of various bones (including the skull).

Things to think about: (p. 24)

Function of vitamin D	Potential health problems
Helps regenerate nerve cells, plays a role in sleeping and keeping a good mood, helps with depression	Insomnia; low mood
Regulates blood pressure and prevents heart failure	High blood pressure; heart attack
Helps bone marrow cells and increases immunity, especially in autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis	Low immunity; autoimmune diseases
Together with calcium, ensures proper growth and development of bones and teeth	Rickets; brittle bones
Increases muscle weight and power	Decrease in muscle mass
Improves insulin secretion and glucose tolerance, preventing type 2 diabetes	Increased risk of type 2 diabetes
Increases production of sperm cells and, therefore, ameliorates fertility	Increased risk of infertility
Is an important antioxidant, lowers the risk of cancer	Increased risk of cancer

Things to think about: (p. 27)

Vitamin K helps maintain proper blood clotting. Newborns have very delicate blood vessels and are at a greater risk of haemorrhages. Vitamin K shots prevent this from happening.

Things to think about: (p. 29)

Meat (especially red meat) is rich in iron. Vegetables are usually rich in vitamin C. Vitamin C helps iron absorption, so eating meat along with a salad increases the amount of iron ingested.

Things to think about: (p. 29)

Vitamins are usually not sensitive to low temperatures, but are destroyed at high temperatures. Freezing will maintain almost all of the vitamins. Preparing a preserve involves cooking, and the cooking process will destroy some of the vitamins. Therefore, there are more vitamins in frozen fruits than in preserves.

Check your understanding

1) D 2) D 3) D 4) C 5) D (1 mark for each correct answer)

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- 6) 1 mark for each correct row, only one source for each vitamin needs to be provided

Vitamin	Source
Vitamin B1 (thiamine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whole grains yeast (including Marmite®) liver lean meat
Vitamin B2 (riboflavin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yeast liver cheese green leafy vegetables, such as spinach or
Vitamin B3 (niacin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meat nuts and seeds whole grains refined cereals and flour fish (e.g. tuna and mackerel) eggs cottage cheese yeast broccoli
Vitamin B9 (folic acid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yeast whole grains fortified cereals and flour spinach broccoli
Vitamin B12 (cobalamin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> liver milk meat eggs cheese fish (e.g. salmon and cod)
Vitamin C (ascorbic acid)	<p>Fruits and vegetables, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potatoes bell peppers tomatoes strawberries blackcurrants citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.) parsley cabbage

Other suitable answers may be accepted.

- 7) 1 mark for a reason (max. 1 mark)
1 mark for the relevant explanation (max. 1 mark)

Indicative content:

- Reason: because some vitamins (A, D, E, K) are fat-soluble
- Explanation: if there is no fat, the vitamins cannot dissolve, hence they are not absorbed properly; as the vitamins cannot be absorbed, the body cannot use them.

*Vitamins A and K are also fat-soluble and can be referred to in the answer (however, not specifically required)

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Minerals

Things to think about: (p. 34)

1. Girls are usually smaller and shorter and have thinner bones than boys so they need more calcium.
2. During ham and sausage preparation, phosphorus solutions are used as stabilisers. Phosphorus is found in meat preserves but lower amounts are found in fresh/unprocessed meat.

Things to think about: (p. 35)

Girls and women menstruate and lose some of their blood every month; therefore, they need more iron. Their need for iron drops after their 50th birthday (approximately) due to the menopause when menstrual bleeding stops and a woman loses her ability to conceive (get pregnant)).

Check your understanding

- 1) A 2) C 3) A 4) A (1 mark for each correct, max. 4 marks)
- 5) 1 mark for each correct, max. 2 marks
Any two from:
 - phosphorus
 - iron
 - magnesium
 - also in amounts of calcium and sodium
- 6) 1 mark for each correct function; students need to provide one function for each mineral.

Phosphorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens bones and teeth • Takes part in metabolism and energy transfer • Builds DNA strands
Iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds haemoglobin and helps to transport oxygen around the body • Increases immunity • Reduces tiredness
Magnesium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports production of energy in cells • Helps to build DNA strands • Necessary for muscle contractions • Increases bowel movements
Calcium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds strong bones and teeth • Helps to control blood pressure • Important electrolyte • Conducts impulses in the muscles
Sodium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important electrolyte • Conducts impulses to and from the cells • Maintains blood pressure

Other suitable answers may be accepted.

- 7) 1 mark for each correct statement, max. 2 marks
Indicative content:
 - high levels of sodium increase water retention in the body, and the increase in blood volume leads to higher blood pressure
 - low levels of potassium increase water retention in the body, and the increase in blood volume leads to higher blood pressure
 - low potassium and high calcium levels will cause high blood pressure

*Sodium is not required by the specification; however, we mention it as a crucial mineral as it is a major cause of hypertension and increases the risk of heart attack / stroke – this is mentioned in Chapter 1 of this resource

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Water

Check your understanding

- 1) C 2) A 3) B (1 mark for each correct, max. 3 marks)
- 4) 1 mark for each correct function (max. 3 marks)
1 mark for each relevant explanation (max. 3 marks)

Function	Explanation
Helps eliminate waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water is a solvent for many substances in metabolism. These are removed from the body. Water also softens the stool, making it easier to pass.
Helps eliminate toxins	Water dissolves toxins and helps to remove them from the body.
Helps cool down	During physical activity or hot weather, water is lost through sweating. By evaporating from the skin's surface, it helps to cool the body and prevents heat stroke.
Helps swallow	Water makes food easier to swallow by making it more moist and reducing the amount of friction between the food and the throat.
Dissolves minerals and vitamins	Water is a solvent for vitamins (B group vitamins) and minerals. As a result, they can be absorbed in the intestines.
Facilitates digestion	Water forms part of saliva and gastric juice, which are responsible for breaking down nutrients. Large amounts of these liquids can be produced, allowing for proper digestion.

Other suitable answers may be accepted.

- 5) Any four from:
- Hot weather and physical activity increase sweating.
 - With sweat, a person loses water and micronutrients such as sodium.
 - This can lead to dehydration.
 - To prevent this, the runner should drink plenty of water.
 - Isotonic beverages are also advisable.
 - It is also advisable to add a little salt to the water to balance the sodium levels.

Complementary actions of nutrients

Check your understanding

- 1) A 2) D 3) C (1 mark for each correct, max. 3 marks)
- 4) 1 mark for each correct, with or without description, max. 2 marks
Any two from:
- Lack of folic acid in the diet
 - Impaired absorption of folic acid in the intestines, e.g. as a result of a disease (e.g. celiac disease)
 - Lack of vitamin B12, which affects folic acid absorption and metabolism
 - Lack of iron in the diet
 - Impaired absorption of iron from food, e.g. due to lack of vitamin C, high amount of calcium, or high amount of phytates
 - Lack of vitamin C in the diet, which can improve absorption of iron
 - Or any other suitable answer
- 5) 1 mark for each correct, max. 2 marks
Any two from:
- Constipation
 - Impaired absorption of calcium
 - Impaired absorption of iron
 - Impaired absorption of zinc
 - Impaired absorption of magnesium
 - Or any other suitable answer

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Quiz-ine

1. Enamel
2. Folic acid
3. Pellagra
4. Skin
5. Scurvy
6. Goitre
7. Arrhythmia
8. Retinol
9. Hypertension
10. Thyroid
11. Dehydration
12. Haemoglobin

The shaded squares reveal this word: **malnutrition**



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