Module 4 Biodiversity, evolution, and disease Answers to practice questions

Question number	Answer			Mark	Guidance
Application 1 (a)	A disease that can be p either directly from one mechanism or indirectly				
1 (b)	Any sensible points, for example:				
	Spirometra erinaceieuropaei	ТВ	HIV/AIDS		
	Communicable disease	Communicable disease	Communicable disease		
	Can affect the brain and other tissues	Can affect the brain and other tissues	Can affect the brain and other tissues		
	Tapeworm	Bacteria	Virus		
	Rare in people, found in crustacea, reptiles, amphibian, and mammals such as cats and dogs	Common in people, also in other mammals including cows, badgers, and deer	Common in people, rare in other species except for some apes.		
	Probably treatable by anti-helminthic medicine	Treatable by antibiotics	Cannot be cured – can be managed using antivirals etc		
	No vaccine	Vaccine	No vaccine		
	Infection by eating raw infected meat, eye contact with raw infected tissues	Droplet infection	Direct transmission via body fluids		
1 (c)	A localised non-specif	fic response to the p	presence of		
	pathogens – mast cells activated if tissue damaged release histamines and cytokines, histamines increase blood flow and cause oedema (swelling) and pain, cytokines attract phagocytes to destroy a pathogen.				
	Suggestion: As tapew inflammatory response				



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	of the brain and cause changing symptoms.	
2 (a)	Examination of observable features including under a microscope Comparision of proteins e.g., by chromatography, gel	
	electrophoresis DAN (genome) sequencing	
2 (b)	Natural selection: organisms within a species show variation in their characteristics. This variation is caused by differences in the alleles of their genes – genetic variation. Mutation also introduces variation, creating a new version of an allele.	
	Predation, competition (for mates and resources) and disease cause a struggle for survival. The organisms whose characteristics are best adapted to these selection pressures have an increased chance of surviving and reproducing. Less well adapted organisms die or fail to reproduce. This process is known as 'survival of the fittest'.	
	Genes from the successful organisms are passed onto their offspring in the next generation. This means the offspring are likely to possess the characteristics that made their parents successful. This process is repeated. Over time, the number of individuals with the advantageous adaptation increases. Therefore the frequency of the allele which codes for this particular characteristic increases in the population.	
	Evolution: This takes place when natural selection takes place in two different populations, separated by geography, niche etc. The selection takes the populations in different directions until eventually they cannot interbreed successfully and new species have been formed. The formation of new species by natural selection is evolution.	
2 (c)	The parasite has a number of different hosts. The more hosts it can attack the more likely it is to survive. It will need different proteins to survive in the different hosts. A large genome means it can code for a wide range of different proteins at different stages in its life cycle, and is therefore a useful adaptation to the parasitic way of life.	
(d)	Spirometra erinaceieuropaei DNA sequencing allows comparison with other species and similar specimens for identification, enables identification of pathogen. Allows identification of vulnerabilities to drugs	
	Wider points – any sensible suggestions e.g., classification – allows identification of new species, identification of evolutionary links by similarities and differences in DNA sequences, intra-specific differences and genetic diversity	



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	can be measured Medicine – real time identification of pathogens in outbreak, monitoring spread of an outbreak, development of vaccines and medicines, identification of strains resistant to medicine etc.		
Extension 1	Clear description given of the expected specific immune response – a flow chart or diagram is a useful way to do this.		
2	Evidence of research into the ways in which parasites avoid rejection/destruction by their host organism. For example, gross anatomy – hooks, suckers etc which allow the parasite to position itself in the host. Some are physiological, for example, reproductive strategies (used by <i>Spirometra erinaceieuropaei</i>). Many are biochemical – this is the way <i>Spirometra erinaceieuropaei</i> and other tapeworms suppress the host immune system to prevent it recognising and attacking them, for example, by producing oxylipins (oxygenated forms of fatty acids) and eicosanoids such as prostaglandins which interact with the host immune system and, for example, suppress phagocytosis and cytokine actions, block enzyme action in host cells, and interfere with the immune system cascades.		
3	One or two page report on chosen biochemical response, with clear explanations and including diagrams if they are helpful. Evidence of research from multiple sources (including scientific papers).		