MIC501 - MICROBIOLOGY

MID TERM MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

PREPARED BY: SIR MUGHAL (ADMIN, BS ZOOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENT)

GROUP LINK: https://chat.whatsapp.com/BjC6W0jZx8o9yaC2ISh1Gu

1. What is medical Microbiology?

Medical microbiology is the branch of microbiology that focuses on the study of microorganisms (such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites) that cause infectious diseases in humans. This field plays a critical role in diagnosing, treating, and preventing infections by understanding the biology and behavior of pathogens, how they interact with the host, and how they can be controlled or eradicated. Key areas of medical microbiology include:

i. Identification of Pathogens
ii. Antimicrobial Resistance
iii. Infection Pathogenesis
iv. Diagnostic Methods
v. Epidemiology
vi. Vaccines and Immunotherapy

2. Write functions of Integral proteins?

- ***Transport of Molecules:*** Form channels or pores for the passage of ions, water, and small molecules. Function as carriers for transporting larger molecules (e.g., glucose, amino acids).
- ***Enzyme Activity:*** Act as enzymes that catalyze reactions on the inside or outside of the cell (e.g., adenylyl cyclase in signal transduction).
- ***Cell Signaling and Communication:*** Serve as receptors for signaling molecules (e.g., hormones, neurotransmitters). Initiate intracellular signaling pathways (e.g., GPCRs, insulin receptors).
- ***Cell-Cell and Cell-Extracellular Matrix Adhesion:*** Involved in cell adhesion via proteins like cadherins and integrins. Maintain tissue structure and allow communication between cells.
- ***Maintaining Membrane Structure and Shape:*** Contribute to membrane stability and flexibility. Interact with the cytoskeleton to support the membrane structure.
- ***Ion Pumps:*** Act as ion pumps (e.g., Na+/K+ ATPase pump) to actively transport ions across the membrane using ATP.
- ***Electrochemical Gradient Maintenance:*** Help maintain electrochemical gradients (e.g., proton pumps, Na+/K+ pump) essential for cell function.
- ***Cell Recognition:*** Play a role in cell recognition and immune response through interactions with glycoproteins or glycolipids on other cells.

3. Define Conjugation, Transformation, and Transduction.

Conjugation: A process of horizontal gene transfer in bacteria where genetic material is transferred directly from one bacterium to another via a pilus.

Transformation: The uptake and incorporation of foreign DNA from the environment into a bacterium's genome.

Transduction: The transfer of bacterial DNA from one bacterium to another via a bacteriophage (virus).

4. Define Pilli and their function.

Pili:

Pili are hair-like, proteinaceous appendages found on the surface of many bacteria.

Function of Pili:

- ***Attachment:*** Pili help bacteria adhere to surfaces, host tissues, or other bacteria, which is crucial for colonization and infection.
- ***Conjugation:*** In conjugation, pili facilitate the transfer of genetic material between bacterial cells by forming a bridge between the donor and recipient cells.
- ***Motility:*** Some pili, specifically type IV pili, are involved in a process called twitching motility, allowing bacteria to move on solid surfaces.
- ***Protection:*** Pili can help protect bacteria from the immune system by aiding in biofilm formation, which provides a physical barrier against host defenses.

5. What is Ethylene Oxide? Write its properties.

Ethylene Oxide (EO):

Ethylene oxide (C_2H_4O) is a highly reactive, colorless, flammable gas with a sweet odor. It is primarily used as a sterilizing agent and in the production of chemicals like antifreeze, detergents, and plastics.

Properties of Ethylene Oxide:

- ***Solubility:*** Soluble in water, alcohol, and ether.
- ***Reactivity:*** Highly reactive, especially with nucleophiles, making it useful in chemical synthesis but also a potent sterilant.
- ***Flammability:*** Highly flammable and explosive at concentrations of 3-100% in air.
- ***Toxicity:*** Toxic and carcinogenic; exposure can lead to respiratory issues, skin irritation, and long-term health effects like cancer.
- ***Sterilizing Agent:*** Used to sterilize medical equipment and supplies that cannot withstand high temperatures (such as plastics and electronic devices).
- ***Cytotoxicity:*** It is cytotoxic and should be handled with care in controlled environments.
- ***Corrosive:*** Can cause severe damage to tissues upon contact.
- Ethylene oxide is an important industrial and medical tool but requires strict safety measures due to its hazardous properties.

6. Name five bacteria that use oxygen for growth.

1. ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis*** *(obligate aerobe)* – Causes tuberculosis and requires oxygen for growth, particularly in the lungs.
2. ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa*** *(obligate aerobe)* – A pathogenic bacterium that thrives in environments with oxygen, often found in respiratory and urinary tract infections.
3. ***Bacillus subtilis*** *(obligate aerobe)* – A soil bacterium that requires oxygen for optimal growth, used in biotechnology and industrial processes.
4. ***Neisseria meningitidis*** *(facultative aerobe)* – Causes meningitis and can grow in both aerobic and anaerobic conditions, though oxygen promotes its growth.
5. ***Listeria monocytogenes*** *(facultative aerobe)* – A foodborne pathogen that can grow in both oxygen-rich and oxygen-poor environments but prefers oxygen for growth.

7. Define Gene, Chromosome, Phenotype and Genotype.

Gene: A gene is a segment of DNA that contains the instructions for producing a specific protein or RNA molecule, which influences an organism's traits or functions.

Chromosome: A chromosome is a long, thread-like structure made of DNA and proteins (histones) that carries genetic information. Humans typically have 23 pairs of chromosomes, which contain all of their genes.

Phenotype: The phenotype is the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an organism, which result from the interaction of its genotype with the environment (e.g., eye color, height, or disease susceptibility).

Genotype: The genotype refers to the genetic makeup of an organism, specifically the alleles it carries for a particular trait or group of traits (e.g., homozygous or heterozygous for a gene). It is the internal genetic code that determines the potential for the phenotype.

8. Write step by step procedure of Gram Staining.

Gram Staining Procedure:

- ***Prepare the Slide:*** Place a clean slide on a staining rack. Smear a small amount of bacterial culture on the slide and air dry. Heat fix by passing the slide through a Bunsen burner flame 2-3 times.
- ***Apply Crystal Violet (Primary Stain):*** Flood the slide with crystal violet stain. Let it sit for 1 minute.
- ***Rinse with Water:*** Gently rinse the slide with distilled water to remove excess stain.
- ***Apply Iodine Solution (Mordant):*** Add iodine solution to the slide and let it sit for 1 minute.
- ***Rinse with Water:*** Rinse the slide with distilled water to remove excess iodine.
- ***Decolorization:*** Apply ethanol or acetone for 10-15 seconds (decolorize carefully).
- ***Rinse with Water:*** Immediately rinse with distilled water to stop the decolorization.
- ***Apply Safranin (Counterstain):*** Flood the slide with safranin and let it sit for 1 minute.
- ***Rinse with Water:*** Rinse the slide with distilled water to remove excess safranin.
- ***Dry the Slide:*** Gently blot the slide with paper towels and let it air dry.
- ***Examine Under a Microscope:*** Observe the slide under an oil immersion microscope (100x).

9. Write five functions of bacterial cell membrane.

- ***Selective Permeability:*** Controls the movement of substances in and out of the cell, allowing essential nutrients to enter and waste products to exit.
- ***Transport of Molecules:*** Facilitates active and passive transport of ions, nutrients, and small molecules through specific transport proteins.
- ***Energy Generation:*** Hosts the electron transport chain and ATP synthesis in bacteria, crucial for energy production through cellular respiration.
- ***Cell Communication:*** Involved in signal transduction, allowing the cell to respond to environmental changes and communicate with other cells.
- ***Structural Support:*** Provides structural integrity and shape to the cell, helping it maintain its form and resist external pressures.

10. Name three chemicals used in food preservation.

- ***Sodium Benzoate*** – Used as a preservative in acidic foods like beverages, fruit juices, and pickles.
- ***Sulfur Dioxide*** – Used to preserve dried fruits, wine, and some vegetables by preventing spoilage and browning.
- ***Calcium Propionate*** – Used to prevent mold growth in bread, cakes, and other baked goods.

11. Name three chemicals which disrupt cell membrane of bacteria.

- ***Polymyxin B*** – A detergent-like compound that binds to and disrupts the bacterial cell membrane, often used to treat Gram-negative bacterial infections.
- ***Triton X-100*** – A surfactant that breaks down the lipid bilayer of the bacterial membrane, commonly used in laboratory experiments.
- ***Alcohol (e.g., Ethanol or Isopropanol)*** – Dissolves the lipid components of the bacterial cell membrane, leading to membrane disruption and cell death.

12. Name dry heat method of sterilization.

Hot Air Oven: This method uses dry heat, typically at temperatures of 160–180°C for durations ranging from 1 to 2 hours, to sterilize materials like glassware, metal instruments, and powders. The heat causes the destruction of microbial cells by denaturing their proteins and drying them out.

13. Explain five kingdom classification of organisms.

1. Kingdom Monera:

The **Kingdom Monera** consists of unicellular organisms that are prokaryotic, meaning they lack a well-defined nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles. This kingdom includes **bacteria** and **blue-green algae**

(cyanobacteria). Organisms in this kingdom exhibit diverse modes of nutrition, with some being **autotrophic** (producing their own food through photosynthesis or chemosynthesis) and others **heterotrophic** (obtaining nutrients from other organisms). Monera can reproduce asexually through **binary fission**, where a single organism divides into two identical cells. These organisms can survive in a wide range of environments, including extreme conditions, making them highly adaptable. While bacteria play essential roles in processes like nitrogen fixation and decomposition, some can also be harmful, causing diseases in humans, animals, and plants.

2. Kingdom Protista:

The **Kingdom Protista** includes a diverse group of eukaryotic organisms, most of which are unicellular, though some are multicellular. Organisms in this kingdom possess a defined nucleus and other organelles. Protists are highly varied in their modes of nutrition, with some being **autotrophic** (such as algae, which use photosynthesis to produce their own food), and others being **heterotrophic** (like protozoa, which consume other organisms for nourishment). Protists are mainly found in aquatic environments, including freshwater, saltwater, and moist habitats. Some protists are capable of movement through structures like **flagella**, **cilia**, or **pseudopodia**. This kingdom includes organisms like **amoebas**, **paramecia**, and **algae**. Protists can be important in the food chain and ecosystem, but some, such as **Plasmodium** (the causative agent of malaria), can be pathogens.

3. Kingdom Fungi:

The **Kingdom Fungi** consists of organisms such as mushrooms, molds, yeasts, and lichens. Fungi are predominantly **multicellular** (with the exception of **yeasts**, which are unicellular) and are **eukaryotic**, meaning their cells contain a true nucleus. Unlike plants, fungi are **heterotrophic**, meaning they absorb nutrients from decaying organic material or living hosts. They play an important role in **decomposition**, recycling nutrients in ecosystems. Fungi have **cell walls made of chitin**, unlike the cellulose found in plant cells. Their reproductive processes involve the production of **spores**, which can be either sexual or asexual, depending on the species. Fungi can be beneficial, such as in food production (yeasts for baking and brewing), but some species are also **pathogenic**, causing infections like athlete's foot or thrush in humans.

4. Kingdom Plantae:

The **Kingdom Plantae** includes all multicellular, eukaryotic organisms commonly known as plants. Plants are primarily **autotrophic**, meaning they produce their own food through **photosynthesis**, using sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to make glucose. They have **cell walls made of cellulose**, providing structural support. The kingdom includes a vast range of organisms, from simple **mosses** to more complex **flowering plants** and **conifers**. Plants have specialized structures such as **roots**, **stems**, and **leaves** that help in water and nutrient transport, and they engage in **sexual reproduction** through seeds, though some can also reproduce asexually. Plants are essential to life on Earth, as they produce oxygen and serve as the base of most ecosystems, providing food and shelter for various organisms.

5. Kingdom Animalia:

The **Kingdom Animalia** consists of multicellular, **eukaryotic** organisms that are **heterotrophic**, meaning they obtain food by consuming other organisms. Animals lack **cell walls** and have specialized **tissues, organs**, and **organ systems** for various functions such as digestion, circulation, and reproduction. This kingdom is incredibly

diverse, ranging from simple invertebrates like **sponges** and **insects** to complex vertebrates like **birds**, **mammals**, and **fish**. Animals are capable of **locomotion** at some point in their life cycle, often through the use of muscles. Reproduction is mainly **sexual**, though some species can reproduce asexually. Animals play crucial roles in ecosystems as consumers and predators, and they contribute to the ecological balance. Many animals are also important to humans as sources of food, labor, companionship, and biomedical research.

14. Write names of four membrane bound organelles.

1. Nucleus
2. Mitochondria
3. Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER)
4. Golgi Apparatus

15. Define Sepsis, Antisepsis, and Sanitization.

Sepsis: Sepsis is a life-threatening condition caused by the body's extreme response to an infection. It occurs when the body's immune system reacts inappropriately to an infection, leading to widespread inflammation, organ dysfunction, and potentially organ failure. It can be caused by bacterial, viral, or fungal infections.

Antisepsis: Antisepsis refers to the process of eliminating or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on living tissues, such as skin or mucous membranes, to prevent infection. This is typically achieved using antiseptic agents, which are chemicals that can reduce the microbial load without harming human tissues.

Sanitization: Sanitization is the process of reducing the number of microorganisms on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as determined by public health standards. It often involves the use of physical or chemical methods, like cleaning with disinfectants, to prevent the spread of harmful pathogens, especially in food handling and public health settings.

16. Enlist names of parts of microscope.

1. Eyepiece (Ocular lens)
2. Objective lenses
3. Arm
4. Base
5. Coarse adjustment knob
6. Fine adjustment knob
7. Stage
8. Stage clips
9. Illuminator (Light source)
10. Condenser
11. Diaphragm
12. Revolving nosepiece
13. Tube (Body tube)
14. Cover slip (used for placing specimens)
15. Mechanical stage (on advanced models)

17. Define Culture, Culture medium and Inoculum.

Culture: A culture refers to the cultivation or growth of microorganisms (such as bacteria, fungi, or viruses) in a controlled environment, typically in a laboratory setting. It involves the process of providing nutrients and optimal conditions for microorganisms to grow, multiply, and be observed for research or diagnostic purposes.
Culture Medium: A culture medium is a substance or material used to support the growth of microorganisms. It provides the necessary nutrients, such as carbon, nitrogen, minerals, and vitamins that microorganisms need to grow. Culture media can be in various forms, including solid (agar plates), liquid (broth), or semisolid (slants), and they can be selective, differential, or enriched depending on the type of microorganism being cultured.
Inoculum: Inoculum refers to the sample of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, etc.) introduced into a culture medium to initiate the growth of a new culture. It can be a small amount of microbial material taken from an existing culture or from an environmental source, used to propagate or propagate a specific microorganism for study or testing.

18. Name three types of genetic transfers in bacteria.

Conjugation: The transfer of genetic material between two bacterial cells through direct contact, usually via a pilus. It often involves the transfer of plasmids, which can carry antibiotic resistance genes.
Transformation: The uptake and incorporation of free DNA from the environment into a bacterial cell. This can occur when bacteria are in a state of competence and can take up genetic material released by other bacteria.
Transduction: The transfer of bacterial DNA from one bacterium to another via a bacteriophage (virus). The bacteriophage picks up bacterial DNA during infection and introduces it into a new bacterial host during subsequent infections.

19. Write factors which cause bacterial cell death.

Several factors can cause bacterial cell death, including:

- ***Antibiotics:*** Antibiotics can target specific structures or functions in bacterial cells (e.g., cell wall synthesis, protein synthesis, DNA replication), leading to cell death.
- ***Temperature Extremes:*** High temperatures can denature proteins, disrupt cell membranes, and cause irreparable damage to enzymes, leading to cell death. Similarly, extreme cold can cause the formation of ice crystals that damage the cell structure.
- ***Osmotic Pressure Changes:*** Exposure to environments with significantly different osmotic pressures (e.g., high salt or sugar concentrations) can cause water to either enter or leave the bacterial cell, leading to cell lysis or dehydration and eventual death.
- ***Desiccation (Drying):*** Lack of moisture can cause bacterial cells to dehydrate, disrupting cellular functions and leading to death.
- ***Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS):*** High levels of reactive oxygen species (e.g., superoxide, hydrogen peroxide) can damage cell membranes, proteins, and DNA, leading to oxidative stress and bacterial death.

- ***pH Extremes:*** Extremely acidic or alkaline conditions can disrupt enzymatic activity, damage cellular structures, and lead to the death of the bacterium.
- ***Radiation:*** UV radiation or ionizing radiation can cause DNA damage (mutations, strand breaks) that is often lethal to bacterial cells if repair mechanisms cannot handle the damage.
- ***Toxins:*** Bacteria can produce toxins (e.g., endotoxins or exotoxins) that damage host tissues and affect bacterial survival. In some cases, the bacteria may also die due to the effects of these toxins on their own metabolic processes.
- ***Chemical agents:*** like alcohol, bleach, iodine, and other disinfectants can destroy bacterial cell membranes, denature proteins, and inhibit metabolic processes, leading to cell death.
- ***Nutrient Deprivation:*** A lack of essential nutrients (e.g., carbon, nitrogen, or vitamins) can inhibit bacterial metabolism and lead to cell death over time.

20. Define flagellum and write its functions.

A flagellum is a long, whip-like structure that extends from the surface of a cell, particularly bacteria, and some eukaryotic cells like sperm. It is made up of protein fibers and is used for motility—allowing the cell to move in its environment.

Functions of Flagellum:

- ***Locomotion:*** The primary function of the flagellum is to provide **movement**. It allows bacteria and other cells to swim or move towards or away from certain stimuli, such as nutrients or harmful substances, in a process known as taxis (e.g., chemotaxis for movement toward or away from chemicals).
- ***Orientation in the Environment:*** Flagella help cells orient themselves in specific directions, such as moving toward favorable environments (positive chemotaxis) or away from harmful environments (negative chemotaxis).
- ***Attachment:*** In some bacteria, the flagellum can assist in attaching the cell to surfaces or other cells, facilitating processes like biofilm formation.
- ***Signal Transduction:*** Flagella are involved in signal transduction, allowing bacteria to sense and respond to their environment, coordinating movement and behavior based on external signals.
- ***Infection and Virulence:*** In pathogenic bacteria, flagella can play a role in infection by helping the bacteria move through host tissues and toward infection sites, contributing to their ability to cause disease.

21. Differentiate between oxygenic and non-oxygenic photoautotrophs.

Oxygenic Photoautotrophs:

Oxygenic photoautotrophs are organisms that use light energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into glucose and oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. These organisms, which include plants, algae, and cyanobacteria, are capable of producing oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis. They possess chlorophyll or other pigments to absorb light, primarily in the blue and red wavelengths. Oxygenic photosynthesis occurs in two stages: the light-dependent reactions (which require light to produce ATP and NADPH) and the light-independent reactions (Calvin cycle) that fix carbon dioxide into organic molecules. These organisms are crucial for the Earth's ecosystems as they contribute to the production of oxygen and the base of the food chain.

Non-Oxygenic Photoautotrophs:

Non-oxygenic photoautotrophs are organisms that also utilize light energy to convert carbon dioxide into organic compounds but do not produce oxygen as a by-product. Instead, they use other molecules, such as hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) or organic compounds, as electron donors during the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis. These organisms, including certain bacteria like **purple sulfur bacteria**, **green sulfur bacteria**, and **heliobacteria**, rely on **bacteriochlorophyll** or other specialized pigments for light absorption. The process they undergo is similar to oxygenic photosynthesis but differs in the electron donors and the absence of oxygen production. Non-oxygenic photoautotrophs are often found in anoxic environments, such as deep-sea vents, where oxygen is scarce.

22. Write the characteristics of chromatic granules.

Characteristics of Chromatic Granules:

- **Pigmented Structures**: Chromatic granules are pigmented intracellular inclusions found in certain bacteria. They appear as colored deposits within the cell, often exhibiting shades of yellow, orange, or red, depending on the specific pigments present.
- **Composition**: These granules are primarily composed of polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) or carotenoids, which are pigments involved in the storage of energy or protection against oxidative damage.
- **Storage Function**: Chromatic granules serve as storage sites for excess materials, such as lipids**,** phosphates, or carotenoids, which the bacteria can use when environmental conditions change.
- **Involved in Photosynthesis (in some bacteria)**: In some photosynthetic bacteria, chromatic granules contain pigments such as bacteriochlorophyll or carotenoids that aid in light absorption for the process of photosynthesis.
- **Non-membrane-bound**: Chromatic granules are not enclosed by a membrane and are dispersed within the cytoplasm of the bacterial cell, unlike organelles in eukaryotic cells.
- **Cellular Response to Environmental Conditions**: The formation of chromatic granules can be a response to certain environmental conditions, such as nutrient availability, light exposure, or oxidative stress. The granules help bacteria adapt to their surroundings.
- **Identification**: Chromatic granules can often be observed under a microscope when stained with specific dyes, making them useful for diagnostic identification of certain bacterial species.

23. Name three parts of flagellum.

Filament: The long, whip-like structure that extends from the cell surface and is responsible for movement. It is made of flagellin protein (in bacteria).

Hook: A curved structure that connects the filament to the basal body and acts as a flexible joint, allowing the filament to rotate.

Basal Body: The motor structure embedded in the cell membrane or cell wall that drives the rotation of the flagellum. It acts as an anchor and contains the rotary motor that provides energy for flagellar movement.

24. Define Specialized and Generalized Transduction.

Specialized Transduction:

Specialized transduction is a type of genetic transfer in bacteria where a bacteriophage (virus that infects bacteria) transfers specific bacterial genes from one bacterium to another. This occurs when a lysogenic bacteriophage (one that integrates its DNA into the host's genome) excises improperly, taking adjacent bacterial DNA along with its own viral DNA. The resulting phage particles can then infect another bacterial cell, transferring the specific genes it carried. This type of transduction is highly specific, meaning only genes located near the site of integration of the phage DNA are transferred.

Generalized Transduction:

Generalized transduction is a type of genetic transfer in bacteria where a bacteriophage accidentally packages random bacterial DNA instead of its own viral DNA during the lytic cycle. When these phages infect another bacterium, they inject the bacterial DNA they carry, allowing for the transfer of genes from one bacterial cell to another. Generalized transduction can transfer any gene from the host bacterium, making it non-specific in terms of which genes are transferred. This type of transduction is more random compared to specialized transduction.

25. Explain any two methods of bacterial identification.

1. Gram Staining:

Gram staining is one of the most widely used techniques for bacterial identification, based on the differences in the structure of bacterial cell walls. The method involves a series of staining steps that help differentiate bacteria into two broad categories:

- ***Gram-positive bacteria:*** These bacteria retain the crystal violet stain and appear purple under the microscope due to their thick peptidoglycan layer in the cell wall.
- ***Gram-negative bacteria:*** These bacteria do not retain the crystal violet stain but instead take up the counterstain, safranin, and appear pink under the microscope. Their cell wall contains a thinner peptidoglycan layer and an outer lipid membrane.

2. Biochemical Testing:

Biochemical testing involves a series of experiments to identify bacteria based on their metabolic and enzymatic activities. Different bacteria metabolize substances in unique ways, and these tests help determine which specific enzymes are present or absent in a bacterium. Common biochemical tests include:

- ***Catalase test:*** Determines whether the bacteria produce the enzyme catalase, which breaks down hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen. Catalase-positive bacteria (like Staphylococcus) will bubble when exposed to hydrogen peroxide.
- ***Oxidase test:*** Detects the presence of cytochrome c oxidase in bacteria. Bacteria like **Pseudomonas** are oxidase-positive, while Enterobacteriaceae are oxidase-negative.

26. Write classification of bacteria (based on oxygen).

Bacteria can be classified based on their oxygen requirements into several categories. Here's a breakdown of the main types:

1. Obligate Aerobes:

These bacteria require oxygen for survival and growth. They use oxygen as the final electron acceptor in their respiratory chain to produce energy. Example: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

2. Obligate Anaerobes:

These bacteria cannot survive in the presence of oxygen, as oxygen is toxic to them. They use other molecules like nitrate or sulfate for anaerobic respiration. Example: *Clostridium botulinum*, *Bacteroides fragilis*.

3. Facultative Anaerobes:

These bacteria can grow in both the presence and absence of oxygen. They prefer oxygen when it is available but can switch to anaerobic metabolism (fermentation) when oxygen is not present. Example: *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*.

4. Microaerophiles:

These bacteria require oxygen but in lower concentrations than what is present in the atmosphere (around 5-10%). They are harmed by higher levels of oxygen. Example: *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Helicobacter pylori*.

5. Aerotolerant Anaerobes:

These bacteria do not use oxygen for growth but are not harmed by its presence. They can tolerate oxygen but do not rely on it for energy production (usually using fermentation). Example: *Lactobacillus* species, *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

27. Name endospore layers.

The layers of an endospore (a dormant, highly resistant structure formed by some bacteria) include:

- ***Exosporium:*** The outermost layer of the endospore, which is a thin, proteinaceous layer that provides an additional protective barrier.
- ***Spore Coat:*** This is a thick protein layer beneath the exosporium. It is highly resistant to chemicals, enzymes, and physical stress, providing protection against environmental factors such as UV radiation and desiccation.
- ***Cortex:*** Located beneath the spore coat, the cortex is made of peptidoglycan and serves as a protective layer that helps in maintaining the structural integrity of the spore. It also plays a role in dehydration, which is essential for endospore survival.
- ***Core:*** The innermost part of the endospore, which contains the DNA, ribosomes, and other essential components of the cell. The core is highly dehydrated and contains proteins that protect the genetic material from damage. The core also contains dipicolinic acid and calcium ions, which help stabilize the DNA and proteins during dormancy.

28. Differentiate between prokaryote and eukaryote cell.

Prokaryotic Cells:

- ***Nucleus:*** No true nucleus. The genetic material (DNA) is located in a region called the nucleoid, which is not membrane-bound.

- ***Size:*** Generally smaller in size (typically 0.2 to 2 micrometers in diameter).
- ***Organelles:*** Lack membrane-bound organelles, such as the mitochondria**,** endoplasmic reticulum, or Golgi apparatus.
- ***Cell Structure:*** Have a simple structure. The cell wall is often present and made of peptidoglycan (in bacteria).
- ***DNA:*** Circular DNA that is not enclosed in a membrane. Some may have additional small pieces of DNA called plasmids.
- ***Reproduction:*** Reproduce asexually through binary fission, a process where a single cell divides into two identical daughter cells.
- ***Examples:*** Bacteria and Archaea.

Eukaryotic Cells:

- ***Nucleus:*** Have a true nucleus where the genetic material (DNA) is enclosed in a nuclear membrane**.**
- ***Size:*** Typically larger in size (usually 10 to 100 micrometers in diameter).
- ***Organelles:*** Contain membrane-bound organelles, such as the nucleus, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum (ER)**,** Golgi apparatus, and lysosomes**.**
- ***Cell Structure:*** More complex structure with the presence of a cytoskeleton for shape and support. Some eukaryotes have a cell wall (e.g., plants and fungi), but animals do not.
- ***DNA:*** Linear DNA found within the nucleus, and it is associated with histone proteins. Eukaryotes have multiple chromosomes.
- ***Reproduction:*** Can reproduce sexually (via meiosis) or asexually (via mitosis). Eukaryotes often have more complex mechanisms of cell division.
- ***Examples:*** Animals**,** Plants**,** Fungi, and Protists.

29. Name stages of germination of spore.

The stages of spore germination typically involve the following steps:

- ***Activation:*** This is the initial stage where the spore becomes responsive to environmental conditions, such as changes in temperature, moisture, or the presence of nutrients. Activation often involves the breakdown of dormancy factors, but the spore is not yet actively growing.

- ***Germination:*** During germination, the spore absorbs water, causing it to swell. The spore's coat begins to break down, and metabolic activity is reinitiated. This stage includes the activation of enzymes that start to digest the stored nutrients (such as dipicolinic acid and calcium ions), which were stored during the dormant state. The spore begins to expand and lose its dormancy.

- ***Outgrowth:*** This is the final stage where the germinating spore transitions into a vegetative cell. During outgrowth, the spore fully absorbs nutrients, begins to elongate, and the cellular machinery for growth and division is fully activated. The spore's outer layers continue to degrade, and the bacterium resumes normal cellular functions, including cell division and growth.

30. How pressure, osmotic pressure and temperature kill microorganisms?

1. Pressure:

- High pressure can damage microbial cells by causing the denaturation of proteins and disrupting cell membranes. It can also affect enzymatic activities, leading to cell death. This process, known as pressure sterilization (or high-pressure processing), is used in food preservation to kill harmful microorganisms without affecting the food's quality.
- Low pressure (as seen in vacuum conditions) can also be harmful, particularly for gas-filled structures like bacterial spores, causing cell rupture and loss of viability.

2. Osmotic Pressure:

- Osmotic pressure refers to the difference in water concentration across a semipermeable membrane. High osmotic pressure (e.g., due to high concentrations of salt or sugar in the environment) can cause water to leave the microorganism by osmosis, leading to plasmolysis (shrinking of the cell). The loss of water disrupts cellular processes, damages DNA, and leads to cell death.
- Hypotonic environments (low osmotic pressure), where water moves into the cell, can cause the cell to burst (lysis) as water enters and the cell wall is unable to withstand the internal pressure.

3. Temperature:

- ***High Temperatures:*** Excessive heat can denature proteins, destabilize cell membranes, and disrupt enzyme function, all of which are critical for cellular processes. Boiling and autoclaving (high-pressure steam) are common methods for sterilizing and killing microorganisms. Some thermophilic bacteria can withstand higher temperatures, but extreme heat generally leads to cell death.
- ***Low Temperatures:*** While freezing doesn't necessarily kill microorganisms, it can render them inactive by slowing down metabolic processes. However, rapid freezing can cause the formation of ice crystals that rupture cell membranes, leading to cell death. Freezing and thawing cycles are often used to kill microorganisms in food preservation, although some microorganisms, such as psychrophiles (cold-loving bacteria), can survive low temperatures.

31. Write function of condenser, illuminator and objective lens.

1. Condenser:

The condenser focuses light from the illuminator onto the specimen. It concentrates and directs the light to illuminate the object being viewed, helping to achieve better contrast and resolution in the image. The condenser may have an adjustable diaphragm to control the amount of light, which allows for better control over the brightness and sharpness of the specimen.

2. Illuminator:

The illuminator is the light source of the microscope. It provides the necessary illumination for the specimen, making it visible under the microscope. In most light microscopes, this is typically a bulb or LED placed below the stage that shines light upward through the condenser and onto the specimen.

3. Objective Lens:

The objective lens is the primary optical component for magnification. It is positioned above the specimen and focuses light that passes through it to produce an image. Different objective lenses (e.g., 4x, 10x, 40x, 100x) provide different levels of magnification. The objective lenses work together with the eyepiece to provide a magnified view of the specimen, and they can be rotated to change magnification power.

32. Write functions of ribosome, cell wall and flagella.

1. Ribosome:

Ribosomes are the sites of protein synthesis in a cell. They read the mRNA (messenger RNA) and translate it into a specific sequence of amino acids to form proteins. Ribosomes are made up of RNA and protein and can be found either floating freely in the cytoplasm or attached to the endoplasmic reticulum (in eukaryotic cells), forming the rough ER. In prokaryotic cells, ribosomes are smaller (70S) compared to eukaryotic ribosomes (80S).

2. Cell Wall:

The cell wall provides structural support and protection to the cell, maintaining its shape and preventing it from bursting due to osmotic pressure. In plant cells, fungi, and bacteria, the cell wall is made of different materials. For example, in bacteria, the wall is made of peptidoglycan, while in plants, it is made of cellulose. The cell wall also helps to protect the cell from mechanical stress and environmental factors, and in plants, it regulates the passage of substances into and out of the cell.

3. Flagella:

Flagella are tail-like structures that provide motility to cells. They help the cell move through liquid environments (like water) by rotating or whipping in a propeller-like motion. In bacteria, flagella enable the cell to move toward nutrients (positive chemotaxis) or away from harmful substances (negative chemotaxis). In eukaryotic cells, flagella are found in sperm cells and some single-celled organisms and are used for movement. Flagella are essential for the locomotion and survival of many microorganisms in their environments.

33. What are four phases of growth curve?

The four phases of the bacterial growth curve are:

1. ***Lag Phase:*** This is the initial phase where bacteria are adjusting to their new environment. During this phase, cells are metabolically active but not dividing. They are synthesizing enzymes and preparing for cell division, but there is no increase in population size.

2. ***Log Phase (Exponential Phase):*** In this phase, bacteria are actively dividing at a constant and rapid rate. The growth is exponential, meaning the population doubles in a regular time interval. This is the phase where bacteria are most susceptible to antibiotics and can produce the highest amount of metabolites. It's a time of maximal cellular activity.

3. ***Stationary Phase:*** In this phase, the rate of cell division equals the rate of cell death. The population size stabilizes because nutrients are becoming limited, and waste products are accumulating. The overall growth of the population slows, and bacteria may enter a state of reduced metabolic activity.

4. ***Death Phase (Decline Phase):*** In this final phase, the number of dying cells exceeds the number of new cells being formed. This occurs due to the depletion of nutrients and the accumulation of toxic waste products. The bacterial population begins to decline rapidly.

34. Explain Germ-Disease Theory.

The Germ-Disease Theory states that microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc.) are the cause of many diseases. It was developed by scientists like Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch. According to this theory, harmful germs invade the body, reproduce, and cause illness by damaging tissues or producing toxins. Key points are:

- **Pathogens** (germs) cause infection and disease.
- **Koch's Postulates** helped establish links between specific microbes and diseases.
- It led to prevention (vaccination, hygiene) and treatment (antibiotics, sterilization) strategies.

35. What are two factors influencing the effectiveness of antimicrobial susceptibility?

Two key factors that influence the effectiveness of antimicrobial susceptibility are:

1. **Concentration of the Antimicrobial Agent**:
   The concentration or dose of the antimicrobial agent plays a crucial role in its effectiveness. If the concentration is too low, the antimicrobial might not be effective in killing or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms. Higher concentrations typically lead to better antimicrobial action, but excessive amounts can be toxic to the host or promote resistance.

2. **Microorganism's Resistance Mechanisms**:
   Different microorganisms can possess mechanisms that make them resistant to antimicrobial agents. These can include changes in the microbial cell wall, the presence of efflux pumps that expel the drug, or the production of enzymes that inactivate the antimicrobial. The inherent or acquired resistance of the microorganism can significantly reduce the effectiveness of the treatment.

36. What is spontaneous generation?

Spontaneous generation is an outdated and disproven scientific theory that proposed that life could arise automatically from non-living matter. According to this theory, organisms such as maggots, frogs, or rats could spontaneously emerge from decaying food, dirty clothing, or other organic material without the need for pre-existing life.

Key Points:

- It was believed that life could arise from inanimate objects or substances.
- The theory was widely accepted until the 17th century.

- It was disproved by Louis Pasteur and Francesco Redi through experiments that showed that life only comes from existing life (biogenesis), not from non-living matter.

37. Explain step by step procedure of Catalase test.

Below is the step-by-step procedure for performing the Catalase Test**:**

1. Prepare the Bacterial Sample: Isolate a colony of the bacterium to be tested from an agar plate using a sterile loop or swab. Transfer the bacterial colony to a clean glass slide**.** A small amount is sufficient for testing.
2. Add Hydrogen Peroxide: Place 1-2 drops of 3% hydrogen peroxide **(**H_2O_2) solution directly onto the bacterial sample on the slide.
3. Observe the Reaction: Observe immediately for the presence of bubbles or effervescence**.** Bubbling indicates a positive result, meaning the bacterium produces the enzyme catalase. The enzyme catalase breaks down hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen, causing the observed bubbles. No bubbles indicate a negative result, meaning the bacterium does not produce catalase.
4. Clean Up: After observing the result, discard the slide properly and sterilize any tools used.

Interpretation:

- ***Positive Catalase Test:*** The presence of bubbles indicates the bacterium produces catalase (e.g., *Staphylococcus aureus*).
- ***Negative Catalase Test:*** No bubbles indicate the absence of catalase (e.g., *Streptococcus pyogenes*).

Regards,
Sir Mughal,
BS Zoology, Virtual University of Pakistan
B.Sc (Honors), University of Karachi.