






















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 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

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- Answer Writing (English /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (English/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
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 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
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 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English, Hindi, Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Haryana News Editorial (English/Eng)
 - HCS Quiz
 - Haryana Essay (English/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Haryana News Editorial (English/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (English /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (English/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Haryana News Editorial (English/Eng)
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 - HCS Prelims Test Series

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- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
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 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
 - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
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 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

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- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
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 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
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- UPCOMING EXAMS
 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
 - Test Series Planner
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Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

Topics Covered



- Summary:
 - What is the news?
 - A Forgotten Threat:
 - The Dangers of Diphtheria:
 - Symptoms to Watch Out For:
 - The Urgency of Vaccination:
 - Combating the Resurgence:
 - Conclusion:
 - Key facts:
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:
 - Model Answer:
 - Question 2:
 - Model Answer:
 - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
- Prelims:
- Mains:

Summary:

- Widespread vaccination programs led to a decline in diphtheria cases, but recent trends show a resurgence.
- Global coverage of the third dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine reached 84% in 2022, nearly back to pre-pandemic levels.
- However, disparities exist, with low-income countries lagging behind in vaccination rates.

What is the news?

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently issued a concerning report highlighting the rise of diphtheria, a once-common childhood disease that can be fatal. This editorial delves into the causes of this resurgence, the dangers of diphtheria, and the critical steps needed to control its spread.

A Forgotten Threat:

- For decades, widespread vaccination programs led to a dramatic decline in diphtheria cases. **According to the WHO, global coverage of the third**

dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine reached 84% in 2022, nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. However, this statistic masks significant disparities. Low-income countries continue to lag behind, with many children lacking complete vaccination. Additionally, complacency regarding vaccination and disruptions in immunization efforts due to the COVID-19 pandemic have created a breeding ground for the resurgence of this deadly disease.

The Dangers of Diphtheria:

- Diphtheria is a highly contagious bacterial infection that primarily affects the throat and nose. It can cause difficulty breathing, paralysis, heart failure, and even death. Children under the age of five are particularly vulnerable. The WHO reports a fatality rate of 5-10% for diphtheria cases, highlighting the severity of the illness.

Symptoms to Watch Out For:

- Early symptoms of diphtheria include sore throat, fever, and fatigue. A thick, grayish membrane may form in the throat, making breathing difficult. Prompt medical attention is crucial to prevent complications and death.

The Urgency of Vaccination:

- Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent diphtheria. The DTaP vaccine, which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, is recommended for all children. Adults should also ensure they are up-to-date on their diphtheria vaccinations. The WHO recommends a complete three-dose primary series for children, followed by booster doses throughout childhood and adolescence for sustained immunity.

Combating the Resurgence:

Several critical steps are necessary to control the spread of diphtheria:

- **Increased Vaccination Rates:** Public health campaigns should emphasize the importance of vaccination and encourage parents to have their children vaccinated according to the recommended schedule. The focus should be on reaching unvaccinated and under-vaccinated populations, particularly in low-resource settings.
- **Improved Surveillance:** Healthcare professionals need to be vigilant in identifying potential cases of diphtheria and reporting them promptly to health authorities. This allows for early intervention, isolation of cases, and contact tracing to prevent further spread.
- **Strengthening Healthcare Systems:** Ensuring access

to quality healthcare and essential medications like diphtheria antitoxin is crucial for effective treatment. Investments in healthcare infrastructure and personnel are essential to manage potential outbreaks.

- **Combating Misinformation:** Addressing vaccine hesitancy and misinformation surrounding vaccines is essential to ensure high vaccination coverage. Educational campaigns promoting the safety and efficacy of vaccines are crucial to build public trust and encourage immunization.

Conclusion:

- The resurgence of diphtheria serves as a stark reminder of the importance of maintaining robust immunization programs. By prioritizing vaccination, healthcare access, and public education, we can effectively combat this dangerous disease and protect future generations. Let us not allow past victories to become future failures. The fight against vaccine-preventable diseases like diphtheria requires continued vigilance, a collective effort, and closing the gap in global vaccination coverage.

Key facts:

- **Diphtheria is a disease caused by a bacterium** that affects the upper respiratory tract and less often the skin. It also produces a toxin that damages

the heart and the nerves.

- Diphtheria is a vaccine preventable disease, but multiple doses and booster doses are needed to produce and sustain immunity. Those who are not immunized or under immunized are at risk of the disease.
- Diphtheria is fatal in 5–10% of cases, with a higher mortality rate in young children.
- Recent diphtheria outbreaks stress the importance of sustaining high levels of vaccination coverage in communities across the life course. In 2022, an estimated 84% of children worldwide received the recommended 3 doses of diphtheria-containing vaccine during infancy, leaving 16% with no or incomplete coverage. There is wide coverage variation between and within countries.



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General Studies

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 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

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1 / 5

Category: General Studies

A recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlights a concerning rise in diphtheria cases globally. What is the PRIMARY reason behind

this resurgence?

- Mutation of the diphtheria bacteria rendering existing vaccines ineffective.
- Increased virulence of the diphtheria virus.
- Decline in global vaccination rates due to complacency and pandemic disruptions.
- Emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of diphtheria bacteria.

Prev

Finish

Next

2 / 5

Category: General Studies

An effective strategy to control the spread of diphtheria includes:

- Mandatory isolation of all suspected cases
- Discontinuation of travel to countries reporting diphtheria outbreaks
- Promotion of mass antibiotic administration
- Strengthening routine childhood immunization programs

Prev

Finish

Next

3 / 5

Category: General Studies

The emergence of diphtheria outbreaks underscores the importance of:

- Maintaining high vaccination coverage rates in the population
- Investing in robust healthcare infrastructure, especially in low-resource settings
- Prioritizing the development of new and more effective

antibiotics

All of the above

Prev

Finish

Next

4 / 5

Category: General Studies

Which of the following is NOT a characteristic symptom of diphtheria in its early stages?

Sore throat

Fever

Runny nose

Difficulty swallowing

Prev

Finish

Next

5 / 5

Category: General Studies

One of the most concerning complications of untreated diphtheria is:

Skin rash

Diarrhea

Respiratory failure

Headache

Prev

Finish

Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

Please Rate!

Send feedback

Mains Questions:

Below Mains Question

Write in Comment Section



Question 1:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently highlighted a concerning rise in diphtheria cases globally. Discuss the reasons behind this resurgence and elaborate on the measures that need to be taken to control its spread. (250 words)

Model Answer:

The resurgence of diphtheria, a once-common vaccine-preventable childhood disease, is a cause for global concern. Several factors contribute to this phenomenon:

- **Decreased Vaccination Rates:** Complacency regarding vaccination and disruptions in immunization programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a decline in vaccination coverage, particularly in low-income countries. This creates pockets of susceptible populations vulnerable to outbreaks.
- **Inequitable Access to Healthcare:** Disparities in access to quality healthcare and essential medications like diphtheria antitoxin further exacerbate the situation, particularly in resource-limited settings.
- **Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy:** The spread of misinformation and vaccine hesitancy can discourage individuals from getting vaccinated, hindering efforts to achieve herd immunity.

To effectively control the spread of diphtheria, a multi-pronged approach is necessary:

- **Strengthening Immunization Programs:** Public health campaigns should emphasize the importance of vaccination and encourage parents to get their children vaccinated according to the recommended schedule. Reaching unvaccinated and under-vaccinated populations, particularly in low-resource settings, is crucial.
- **Enhanced Surveillance:** Healthcare professionals

need to be vigilant in identifying potential diphtheria cases and reporting them promptly to health authorities. This allows for early intervention, isolation of cases, and contact tracing to prevent further spread.

- **Improved Healthcare Systems:** Investing in healthcare infrastructure and personnel is critical to ensure access to quality healthcare and essential medications for effective treatment of diphtheria cases.
- **Combatting Misinformation:** Targeted educational campaigns promoting the safety and efficacy of vaccines are essential to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation. Building public trust and encouraging immunization is crucial.

Question 2:

Diphtheria is a highly contagious bacterial infection. Discuss the symptoms of diphtheria and the complications that can arise if left untreated. (250 words)

Model Answer:

Diphtheria is a contagious bacterial infection primarily affecting the throat and nose. Early symptoms can be mild and include sore throat, fever, and fatigue. However, a hallmark sign is the formation of a thick grayish membrane in the throat, which can obstruct breathing and lead to difficulty

swallowing.

If left untreated, diphtheria can cause severe complications, including:

- Respiratory failure: The thick membrane in the throat can obstruct airways, leading to life-threatening breathing difficulties.
- Myocarditis: The bacteria can damage the heart muscle, affecting its pumping function and potentially leading to heart failure.
- Paralysis: Diphtheria toxins can damage nerves, causing paralysis, which can affect various muscle groups, including those controlling breathing.
- Death: In severe cases, complications can lead to death, highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **General Science (GS) Paper I** – The focus in Prelims would likely be on factual knowledge and basic understanding of the disease. Questions could be in the form of MCQs testing your knowledge on:
 - Causes of the resurgence (e.g., decline in vaccination rates)
 - Symptoms of diphtheria
 - Complications of the disease
 - Preventive measures (e.g., vaccination)

Mains:

- The Mains exam would delve deeper, requiring analytical and application-based responses. You might encounter essay-type questions or case studies that could involve:
 - **Essay:** Discussing the reasons behind the resurgence of diphtheria and suggesting a multi-pronged approach for its control.
 - **Case Study:** A hypothetical scenario with a diphtheria outbreak in a specific region. You may be asked to analyze the situation, suggest

measures for containment, and highlight the importance of public health initiatives.



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Hindi.*

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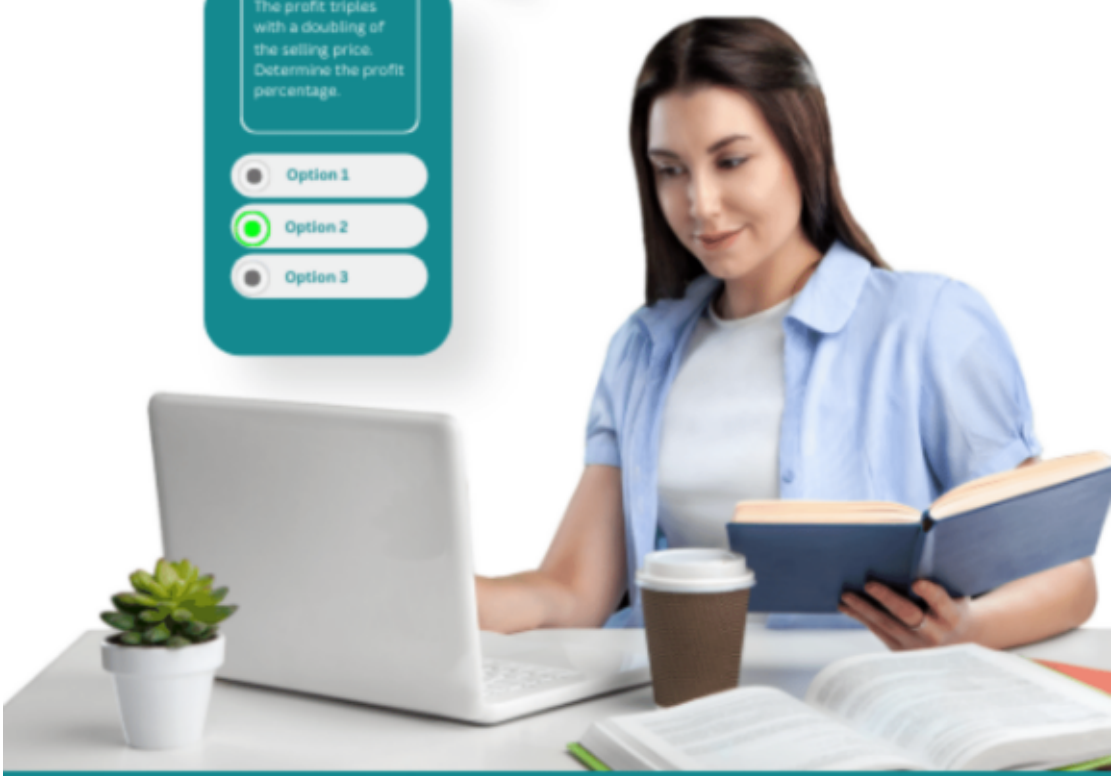
Quiz Time

The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3



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