



Biology

HIGHER LEVEL

Worksheet 11.2

Command term to master

Discuss

Give an account including, where possible, a range of arguments for and against the relative importance of various factors, or comparisons of alternative hypotheses.

Example

Assessment statement 11.1.7

Discuss the benefits and dangers of vaccination.**Author's comment**

The benefits of vaccination include total elimination of diseases, prevention of pandemics and epidemics, decreased healthcare costs and prevention of harmful side-effects of diseases. The dangers include the possible toxic effects of mercury in vaccines, possible overload of the immune system, and possible links with autism.

The mark schemes for **discuss** questions always contain at least two subsections. One section awards marks for one side of a discussion and another section awards marks for the other side of the same discussion. The two sides for this assessment statement are given to you: benefits and dangers. It would be tempting to give information related to only the benefits afforded by vaccines as there is much more scientific evidence to cite for that side of the discussion, but it is important to give the dangers as well because it is likely that about half the awarded marks will come from that side of the discussion (even though most scientific evidence does not support these supposed dangers).