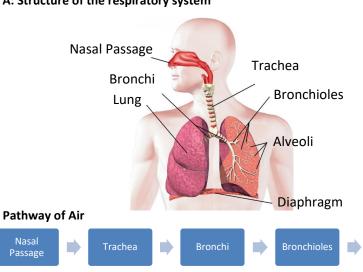
# GCSE Physical Education – The Structure and Functions of the Respiratory System



# A: Structure of the respiratory system



### A: Composition of inhaled and exhaled air

Gas	Inhaled Air	Exhaled Air
Oxygen	21%	16%
Carbon Dioxide	0.04%	4%
Nitrogen	79%	79%

#### A: Inspiration

-Diaphragm and intercostal muscles contract

-Diaphragm moves down and rib cage moves up and out

-Chest cavity increases in size which causes a decrease in pressure
-Air moves from high pressure (outside)

to low pressure (inside the lungs)

#### A: Expiration

-Diaphragm and intercostal muscles relax -Diaphragm returns to dome shape -Lung size decreases and air pressure inside increases

-Air pressure outside the lungs is lower than inside therefor the air moves from inside to the lungs to outside.

# A: Key terms

**Tidal Volume** – the amount of air inhaled and exhaled per breath. Resting value = 500ml

**Breathing Rate** – The number of breaths taken in a Minute

**Minute Volume** – The amount of air inhaled and exhaled per minute. Measured in litres.

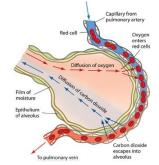
# B: Gaseous exchange at the alveoli

Alveoli

- The alveoli have thin moist walls to allow diffusion to occur.
- Capillaries are one cell thick and are closely wrapped around the alveoli to reduce the distance of diffusion and increase efficiency.

## During inhalation:

- Oxygen is diffused into the capillaries from the alveoli
- Carbon Dioxide is diffused out of the capillaries into the lungs to be exhaled



# C: Aerobic Respiration

When you exercise at a steady, comfortable rate, the cardiovascular system is able to supply the muscles with all the oxygen they need. Under these conditions, **aerobic respiration** takes place.

glucose + oxygen -> carbon dioxide + water

### C: Anaerobic Respiration

When you exercise at a high intensity, the cardiovascular system cannot supply enough oxygen to the muscles.

Under these conditions, **anaerobic respiration** takes place.

glucose → lactic acid

## C: During exercise

Gaseous exchange increases as the intensity of the activity increases to cope with:

- An increase demand for oxygen at working muscles
- An increase in carbon dioxide production and the need to rid this waste product.

Regular exercise can increase the lungs tidal volume and minute ventilation