## Health Benefits of Physical Activity: Match-Up: Answer Key



Benefits of Exercise and Physical Activity	#	Health Benefits
• Active individuals experience a longer life and an improved quality of life.	2	Reduces the risk of dying prematurely.
• Exercise strengthens the heart, vascular system, and respiratory system to help fight cardiovascular disease.	7	Reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease.
• Exercise reduces the daily wear and tear on the heart and the cardiovascular system.	11	Decreases resting heart rate.
• Exercise reduces the stress on the walls of veins and arteries and reduces the risk of a coronary event or stroke.	1	Keeps resting blood pressure normal.
• Exercise increases the ability to perform at higher intensities with greater ease.	4	Improves heart efficiency.
• Exercise reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease and the occurrence of atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).	9	Increases high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and decreases low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol.
<ul> <li>Exercise lowers body fat and increases cellular sensitivity to insulin, which helps regulate blood-sugar levels.</li> </ul>	3	Lowers the risk of developing diabetes.
• Exercise increases the strength of connective tissue, making the individual less susceptible to injury.	6	Promotes joint stability.
• Exercise helps reduce the risk of osteoporosis and the danger of injury and bone fractures.	10	Strengthens bones.
• Exercise promotes a more toned appearance. The toned body burns more calories during exercise.	8	Increases muscle mass and decreases body fat.
• Exercise increases metabolism rate, which helps the body burn more calories both during activity and when at rest.	12	Assists with weight management.
<ul> <li>Exercise develops strong abdominal and back muscles, promoting better posture.</li> </ul>	14	Improves the body's core strength.
• Exercise reduces the incidence and severity of low back pain.	5	Improves back strength.
• Exercise makes for greater ease, control, and safety in all movements in daily life.	13	Improves balance, coordination, agility, and muscular strength.
• Exercise promotes an improved outlook on life and provides a positive outlet for stress.	15	Reduces anxiety and assists in stress management.

Reprinted with permission from Can-Fit-Pro Nutrition & Wellness Specialist Certification manual, Second Edition July 2002.