BIOMEMBRANE STRUCTURE

REVIEW THE CONCEPTS ON DATA AND A STAR AND A

- 2. The amphipathic nature of phospholipid molecules (a hydrophilic head and hydrophobic tail) allows these molecules to self-assemble into closed bilayer structures when in an aqueous environment. The phospholipid bilayer provides a barrier with selective permeability that restricts the movement of hydrophilic molecules and macromolecules across the bilayer. The different types of proteins present on the two faces of the bilayer contribute to the distinctive functions of each membrane, and control the movement of selected hydrophilic molecules and macromolecules across it.
- 3. The three main types of lipid molecules in biomembranes are phosphoglycerides, sphingolipids, and steroids. All are amphipathic molecules having a polar head group and a hydrophobic tail, but the three types differ in chemical structure, abundance and function.