COMPOSITION OF BLOOD

Primary Components

**PLASMA**
- BETWEEN 52% AND 62% OF WHOLE BLOOD
- Fluid in which the cells & formed elements are suspended; acts as a transporter
- PROTEINS 7% OF PLASMA
- WATER 91.5% OF PLASMA

**RED BLOOD CELLS**
- ABOUT 45% OF BLOOD
- Transport oxygen from the lungs to tissue and carbon dioxide from the tissue back to the lungs

**WHITE BLOOD CELLS**
- LESS THAN 1% OF BLOOD
- Part of the body’s defense against disease

**PLATELETS**
- LESS THAN 1% OF BLOOD
- Play a vital role in blood clotting

**OTHER SUBSTANCES**
- 1.5% OF PLASMA
- Electrolytes, nutrients, hormones, vitamins, etc.

**MINOR FRACTIONS**

**Albumin**
- 4% OF PLASMA
- 55% OF PROTEINS

**Immune Globulins**
- 3% OF PLASMA
- 38% OF PROTEINS

**Clotting Factors**
- <1% OF PLASMA
- 7% OF PROTEINS

**Interferon**

**Hemoglobin**
- 33% OF RBCs