



## CHAPTER 4: CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE CELL



### The Importance of Carbohydrates

The table below is a summary of the importance of carbohydrates.

#### *The importance of carbohydrates*

Function	Example
Flavours and sweeteners	Sugars
Dietary fibre	Cellulose
Protection of bacterial cells	Polysaccharides in bacterial cell walls ( <i>see Figure 8.39, page 276, Nexus SPM Biology</i> )
As culture media in the laboratory	Agar
In explosives	Cellulose nitrates
Stabilisation of the structure of proteins	Glycoproteins
Anticoagulant	Heparin
Act as markers for cell recognition; the cell as 'itself' versus foreign cells	Glycoproteins (and glycolipids) ( <i>see Figure 3.3, page 54, Nexus SPM Biology</i> )