**Review questions for Reproductive system lecture**

**Multiple choice review questions:**

3) In males, the pituitary hormone LH…

 A) causes the fallopian ducts to develop

 B) causes testosterone production

 C) causes sperm production

 D) causes erection

4) In boys, testosterone by itself causes all of the following *except*

 A) deeper voice

 B) increased muscle mass

 C) increased sex drive

 D) sperm production

5) In the testis FSH is only able to directly stimulate

 A) muscle growth

 B) testosterone production

 C) sperm production

 D) None of the above choices is correct; FSH only has effects in the ovary.

6) An ovarian follicle that has released its egg turns into...

 A) a primordial follicle.

 B) an endometrium

 C) a secondary follicle.

 D) a corpus luteum

7) The corpus luteum is sustained by

 A) estrogen

 B) FSH

 C) LH

 D) testosterone

8) Progesterone levels are highest during the \_\_\_\_ phase of the reproductive cycle.

 A) follicular (follicle is maturing)

 B) proliferative (endometrium is thickening)

 C) menstrual (menstruationis occurring)

 D) luteal (corpus luteum is mature)

9) Ovulation is caused by

 A) a surge of pituitary LH and FSH

 B) a follicle growing large enough to secrete large amounts of LH.

 C) sexual arousal.

 D) rising levels of progesterone.

10) Sloughing off of the endometrium is known as...

 A) menopause.

 B) menarche.

 C) menstruation.

 D) amenorrhea.

11) Milk letdown (ejection of milk from the breast) is a neuroendocrine reflex arc that requires which hormone?

 A) luteinzing hormone

 B) prolactin

 C) oxytocin

 D) dopamine

12) A zygote undergoes its first division or cleavage and becomes a two-celled embryo

 A) in side the ovary

 B) in the fallopian tube

 C) when it arrives in the uterus about four days after ovulation.

 D) when it becomes implanted in the uterine wall about six days after

 fertilization.

13) The ball-shaped embryo that implants in the uterine wall is the

 A) trophoblast.

 B) morula.

 C) frondosum.

 D) blastocyst.

14) To prevent menstruation and to sustain pregnancy, the trophoblast cells of the implanted embryo must secrete \_\_\_\_ for the first five or six weeks.

 A) progesterone

 B) human chorionic gonadotropin

 C) luteinizing hormone

 D) estrogen

15) Labor is caused by the hormone

 A) LH

 B) Oxytocin

 C) Progesterone

 D) hCG

**Answers to multiple choice review questions**

3 = B

4 = D

5 = C

6 = D

7 = C

8 = D

9 = A

10 = C

11 = C

12 = B

13 = D

14 = B

15 = B

**Fill-in-the-blank review questions**

1) Fill in the following blanks using the hints below:

 a) b)

 (female gonad) (male gonad)

 d) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (term for both sex cell types)

 c) e)

 (female sex cell) (male sex cell)

 f)

 (first cell of offspring)

2) The gametes produced by the female are called the eggs or the \_\_\_\_\_\_;They are produced and stored in the female gonads, the \_\_\_\_\_.

3) Within the testes, sperm production occurs in tubes called the \_\_\_\_\_.

15) The penis of the male contains \_\_\_\_\_\_ tissue, which fills with blood when an erection occurs.

16) FSH stimulates the testes to make \_\_\_\_\_.

17) LH stimulates the testes to make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

18) FSH and LH are made by the \_\_\_\_\_\_ gland.

19) The major hormone produced by the testes is \_\_\_\_\_.

20) In the male, \_\_\_\_\_ initiates maturation of male reproductive organs, causes appearance of

secondary sexual characteristics and sex drive, maintains sex organs in their functional state, and

(in combination with FSH) is necessary for sperm production.

21) Each immature ova and the surrounding cells that protect and support it, is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_. In the adult female, hundreds of thousands of these are inside each \_\_\_\_\_ (an organ).

22) The ova which was released during ovulation is swept by the finger-like \_\_\_\_\_ away from the ovary and into the \_\_\_\_\_ tube.

23) Some ova are lost; The fimbriae are not able to guide them into the fallopian tube. They instead enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ body cavity where they degenerate in a few days.

24) The thick muscular layer of the uterus is called the \_\_\_\_\_; it is made of \_\_\_\_\_ type of muscle tissue.

25) The innermost layer of the uterus is the \_\_\_\_\_, it grows thicker in preparation for

pregnancy, and then sloughs off if no pregnancy occurs.

26) The endometrium is mostly made of \_\_\_\_\_\_ (one of the four major tissue types). It contains large numbers of \_\_\_\_\_\_ to supply the embryo with nutrients should pregnancy occur.

27) The opening of the vagina to the outside of the body is flanked on either side by thin folds of sensitive skin called the \_\_\_\_\_. These meet superiorly to form a hood-like covering for the \_\_\_\_\_, which is the center for much of a female's sexual sensation.

28) The \_\_\_\_\_\_ contains erectile spongy tissue (as does the penis in the male). Although much smaller than the penis, it also becomes erect during sexual arousal.

29) The two major hormone products of the ovaries are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

31) After puberty and through middle age, cyclic hormonal changes control the roughly \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ cycle. (The exact number of days varies.)

32) Because it is easy to identify without ambiguity, the first day of the female reproductive cycle is the day on which the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ begins to be shed, emerging from the vagina together with blood in a process called \_\_\_\_\_.

33) A follicle begins enlarging and maturing during the ovarian cycle starting at day \_\_\_\_\_. Ovulation occurs on day \_\_\_\_\_\_.

34) The release of the ova from the follicle is called \_\_\_\_\_.

35) On very rare occasions, two follicles mature and rupture together. Conception and birth resulting from these events gives rise to \_\_\_\_\_.

36) The cells of the follicle which remain behind, in the ovary (after ovulation) increase in size and form a small yellow endocrine gland called the \_\_\_\_\_. This small gland within the ovary secretes \_\_\_\_\_ (and a relatively small amount of \_\_\_\_\_) throughout the second half of the uterine cycle.

37) If fertilization does not occur, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ will degenerate by the end of the ovarian cycle (day \_\_\_\_) and stop making hormones.

38) During the first few days of the ovarian cycle, a follicle within the ovary begins to mature, and as it does it secretes \_\_\_\_\_. As the follicle gets larger, the level of this hormone rises, and the endometrium of the uterus responds by \_\_\_\_\_.

39) The reproductive cycle is controlled hormonally. The maturation of the follicles in the ovaries is triggered by \_\_\_\_\_, which is released by the \_\_\_\_\_ gland.

40) After ovulation, the corpus luteum is sustained by \_\_\_\_\_ hormone.

41) The \_\_\_\_\_\_ phase of the uterine cycle occurs when the ovary is in its luteal phase (contains a corpus luteum).

42) Approximately the first \_\_\_\_\_ days of the uterine cycle constitute the \_\_\_\_\_ phase, during which the surface of the endometrium is shed and discarded via the vagina.

43) At the same time that the follicle is maturing, the uterus is preparing itself for \_\_\_\_\_ by thickening the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

44) The phase of the uterine cycle during which the endometrium of the uterus is growing thicker is the \_\_\_\_\_ phase. It begins around day \_\_\_\_\_. The phase of the uterine cycle during which the endometrium develops glands that secrete sticky substances is called the \_\_\_\_\_ phase. It begins around day \_\_\_\_\_. If no pregnancy occurs, the endometreum will last until day \_\_\_\_\_ of the reproductive cycle, after which it sloughs off and becomes the menstrual flow.

45) If pregnancy does not occur, the corpus luteum degrades and so progesterone levels fall. Without progesterone, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ will detach from the uterus.

46) If fertilization has not occurred, the egg and the detached endometrium will eventually pass down through the narrow lower part of the uterus, a region which is called the \_\_\_\_\_, and from there the menstrual flow passes through the \_\_\_\_\_, and finally out of the body.

47) Ovulation marks a dramatic change in the events which are occurring in the uterus. The days just prior to ovulation are the \_\_\_\_\_ phase (named after the thickening of the \_\_\_\_\_ lining of the uterus), and the days just following ovulation are the \_\_\_\_\_ phase of the uterine cycle.

48) The hormones \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are produced during and after puberty in the pituitary gland: they regulate the function of the ovaries and testes, and control egg and sperm production.

49) Below are several descriptions of events that occur in the female ovarian and uterine cycles. After each description, write “1-5” if it happens on days 1 – 5 of the cycle, write “6-13” if it happens on those days of the cycle, write “14” if it happens on day 14, and write “15–28” if it happens on those days of the cycle. Some blanks may require more than one answer.

 a) The corpus luteum is present: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 b) Ovulation occurs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 c) Menstruation occurs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 d) The endometrium is growing thicker: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 e) LH and FSH levels are decreasing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 f) There is a sudden sharp increase in LH and FSH levels: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 g) A follicle is growing larger: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 h) Progesterone is being released from the corpus luteum: \_\_\_\_\_

 i) Estrogen is being released from the corpus luteum: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

50) You are an egg (yes, you are). You start off as an unfertilized egg and then you become fertilized by a sperm cell. Indicate the order of the events that happen to you by writing 1 after the first event, 2 after the second event, etc.

You are in the lower part of the fallopian tube \_\_\_\_\_

You are fertilized\_\_\_\_\_

 You are in the uterus \_\_\_\_\_

 You are pulled by a fimbriae \_\_\_\_\_

You are in a mature follicle \_\_\_\_\_

 Ovulation occurs \_\_\_\_\_

 You are pushed by cilia \_\_\_\_\_

52) The drawing below shows a side view of the breast, including some of the ducts and glands inside the breast are shown. Label the parts of the breast.

 a) b) (pigmented area)

 c)

 d)

53) Each breast consists of 15-25 cone shaped \_\_\_\_\_ that produce milk. Milk that is produced in each is secreted first through a \_\_\_\_\_ and then through \_\_\_\_\_ ducts which open on the nipple's surface.

54) The milk is drawn from the breast by suction as a baby nurses. Each nipple is surrounded by a circular band (pigmented in some individuals) called the \_\_\_\_\_.

55) Prolactin, as its name suggests, is the hormone that promotes \_\_\_\_\_.

56) Prolactin production by the ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_ gland begins before the baby’s birth, but milk production is small until after birth.

57) The baby's suckling stimulates the nipples to send signals to the hypothalamus, which responds by causing the pituitary to release the hormones \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_.

58) Oxytocin causes the \_\_\_\_\_ tissue of the mammary glands to contract, resulting in \_\_\_\_\_ by both breasts. This reflex is called the \_\_\_\_\_ reflex.

59) The breasts contain much \_\_\_\_\_\_ tissue, which provides fat to the milk.

60) The oral contraceptives usually consist of synthetic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hormone. The purpose of this hormone is to prevent \_\_\_\_\_\_ so that fertilization cannot occur.

62) In the female reproductive tract, ejaculated sperm can survive up to a period of about \_\_\_\_\_\_ days.

63) The fusion of a sperm cell and an ovum (egg cell) is a process known as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

64) When an ovum fuses together with sperm, a single cell results. This cell is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_ or a “fertilized egg”. It divides many times on its way to the uterus.

65) In order to be fertilized, the ova must encounter a sperm within \_\_\_\_\_ hours of ovulation. (Sperm can live in the female reproductive tract for up to \_\_\_\_\_ days). These facts together mean that a woman is usually fertile on day \_\_\_\_\_ through day \_\_\_\_\_ of her reproductive cycle.

66) Fertilization usually occurs in this region of the fallopian tube (select the correct answer):

a) The end nearest the ovary

b) The middle

c) The end nearest the uterus

67) You are a sperm cell (yes, you are). Name all tubes or hollow organs that you will pass through to meet the egg, starting with the tubes where you are first formed and ending with the tube where you meet the egg. List all tubes/hollow organs in the order you will pass through them.

69) From the fallopian tube, the egg - whether it has been fertilized or not – arrives at the \_\_\_\_\_ region of the uterus first, which is the uppermost region of the uterus.

70) Almost immediately after fertilization, the zygote begins to \_\_\_\_\_.

71) The term \_\_\_\_\_\_ means the ball-shaped embryo that becomes implanted in the endometrial wall of the uterus.

72) The blastocyst is a hollow ball. The outer wall is the \_\_\_\_\_ cells, and the cluster of cells inside is the \_\_\_\_\_. The outer cells will eventually develop into the \_\_\_\_\_, while the inner cells will eventually form the \_\_\_\_\_.

73) To prevent menstruation, the cells of the blastocyst release \_\_\_\_\_ hormone. This hormone is very similar in structure to the pituitary hormone \_\_\_\_. In fact, the blastocyst hormone replaces the declining levels of the pituitary hormone that the corpus luteum needs for survival. Using the hormone from the blastocyst, the corpus luteum survives and continues to make \_\_\_\_\_ hormone, which prevents menstruation.

74) The \_\_\_\_\_ cord connects the developing embryo to the placenta until birth.

75) The \_\_\_\_\_ is a fluid-filled sac which surrounds the fetus. It provides cushioning and support during development.

76) A rudimentary circulatory system and a beating heart are present by the start of week \_\_\_\_\_ (which week?) after fertilization.

77) Organogenesis is the formation of organs and organ systems; by the end of week \_\_\_\_\_ (which week?), foundations of all organ systems are recognizable.

78) From the beginning of week \_\_\_\_\_ (which week?) after conception, the developing child is no longer an embryo, but is instead called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

79) During pregnancy, the uterus enlarges dramatically \_\_\_\_\_ (in which direction?). This sometimes causes \_\_\_\_\_\_ by compressing the \_\_\_\_\_\_ (a digestive organ).

80) Near the end of pregnancy, placental production of the hormone relaxin causes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the pelvis to soften and relax. A possible side-effect is that the woman may become more limber.

81) Blood volume increases for the needs of the fetus, leading to increases in the mother's \_\_\_\_\_.

82) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_means childbirth, and usually occurs around week \_\_\_\_\_after fertilization.

83) \_\_\_\_\_ hormone causes the uterine contractions during labor. This same hormone also causes ejection of milk in response to a baby's suckling. It is released from the \_\_\_\_\_ gland.

84) Pressure of the baby’s head against the \_\_\_\_ signals the pituitary to release oxytocin, which causes a uterine contraction. The contraction of the uterus pushes the baby’s head against the \_\_\_\_ again, which causes more hormone release and another contraction. This cycle continues until the baby is expelled.

85) Labor is divided into three stages: the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ stages.

86) The dilation stage of labor extends from onset of contractions to the time when the \_\_\_\_\_ is fully dilated.

87) At some time during the dilation stage, the amniotic sac will \_\_\_\_\_ (or a medical care worker will see that it happens when dilation is nearly complete, if necessary). This is known as the \_\_\_\_\_.

89) The expulsion stage extends from the moment of \_\_\_\_\_ until the time the infant is delivered. As this stage approaches, the mother’s urge to assist the labor process by \_\_\_\_\_ becomes intense. (This urge varies depending on which method is chosen for pain reduction.)

90) Surgical deliveries (known as \_\_\_\_\_) are sometimes needed if the expulsion stage will be difficult.

91) The expulsion stage of labor is typically\_\_\_\_\_ in length for a woman’s first baby, but on subsequent births it can be as short as \_\_\_\_.

92) The third and final stage of labor is the \_\_\_\_\_ stage, in which the placenta and attached fetal membranes, no longer needed, are expelled.

94) After each description below, write D if it describes Dilation stage of labor, write E if it describes Expulsion stage of labor, and write P if it describes Placental stage of labor. Some blanks may require more than one answer.

 a) The amniotic sack is expelled: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 b) The woman’s uterus is contracting: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 c) The longest of the 3 stages of labor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 d) The amniotic fluid leaks out of the vagina: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 e) The cervix is fully dilated throughout this stage: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 f) Doctors may perform a “C-section” to skip this stage if this

 stage is considered too risky for the mother or the baby: \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to fill-in-the-blank review questions:**

1) a) Ovary

 b) Teste

 c) Egg/Ova

 d) Gametes

 e) Sperm

 f) Zygote

2) Ova

 Ovary

3) Seminiferous tubules

15) Spongy

16) Sperm

17) Testosterone

18) Pituitary

19) Testosterone

20) Testosterone

21) Follicle

 Ovary

22) Fimbriae

 Fallopian

23) Abdominal

24) Myometrium

 Smooth

25) Endometrium

26) Epithelial

 Blood vessels

27) Labia

 Clitoris

28) Clitoris

29) Estrogen

 Progesterone

31) 28

 Female reproductive

32) Endometrium

 Menstruation

33) 1

 14

34) Ovulation

35) Fraternal twins

36) Corpus luteum

 Progesterone

 Estrogen

37) Corpus luteum

 28

38) Estrogen

 Thickening

39) FSH

 Pituitary

40) LH

41) Secretory

42) 5

 Menstrual

43) Implantation of the embryo

 Enometrium

44) Proliferative

 6

` Secretory

 15

 28

45) Endometrium

46) Cervix

 Vagina

47) Proliferative

 Endometrial

 Secretory

48) FSH

 LH

49) a) 15-28

 b) 14

 c) 1-5

 d) 6-13

 e) 15-28

 f) 14

 g) 1-5, 6-13

 h) 15-28

 i) 15-28

50) 6

 5

 7

 3

 1

 2

 4

52) a) Mammary (milk-producing) glands

 Mammary duct

Lactiferous duct

 Areola

53) Mammary glands

 Mammary duct

 Lactiferous ducts

54) Areola

55) Milk production

56) Pituitary

57) Prolactin

 Oxytocin

58) Smooth muscle

 Milk ejection

 Let down

59) Adipose

60) Progesterone

 Ovulation

62) Three

63) Fertilization

64) Zygote

65) 24

 3

 11

 14

66) A (the end nearest the ovary)

67) Seminiferous tubules

 Epididymis

 Vas Deferens

 Urethra

 Vagina

 Uterus

 Fallopian tube

69) Fundus

70) Divide

71) Blastocyst

72) Trophoblast

 Inner cell mass

 Placenta

 Baby

73) hCG

 LH

 Progesterone

74) Umbilical

75) Amnion

76) Four

77) Eight

78) Nine

 Fetus

79) Upward

 Acid reflux (heart burn)

80) Ligaments

81) Blood pressure

82) Parturition/Partum

 37

83) Oxytocin

 Pituitary

84) Cervix

 Cervix

85) Dilation

 Expulsion

 Placental

86) Cervix

87) Break/tear

 Water breaking

89) Full dilation of the cervix

 Pushing with her abdominal muscles

90) Caesarian sections

91) One hour

 20 minutes

92) Placental

94) a) P

 b) D

 c) D

 d) D

 e) E

 f) E

**Short answer review questions:**

5) Describe briefly the changes in the penis tissues that produce an erection.

6) A young boy is in an car accident. His pituitary gland is damaged but his testes are undamaged. Years later, when the boy reaches puberty, he does not show any of the usual signs of male puberty (beard, mustache, lowered voice). Explain his lack of male characteristics in terms of hormones.

7) List the hormone secretions of the follicle and the corpus luteum in females. Your list should also note what family of hormones are being secreted.

8) Ectopic pregnancies are pregnancies where the embryo implants and begins to grow in a region of the woman’s body other than her uterus. This endangers the life of the mother and therefore ectopic pregnancies are usually terminated. Although the cause of ectopic pregnancies is not understood, explain how (in theory) malfunctioning cilia or malfunctioning fimbriae could cause an ectopic pregnancy. In each case, explain where the embryo would implant and grow.

9) Most hormone-based contraceptives (such as birth control pills) contain large amounts of what hormones? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explain why large amounts of these hormones prevent pregnancy.

10) Explain the role of hCG in sustaining pregnancy. Your answer should include a) The source of hCG, b) its target organ, c) What activity it promotes in the target organ, and d) why this target-organ activity is important in sustaining pregnancy.

11) Explain the role of relaxin hormone in pregnancy. Your answer should include a) The source of relaxin, b) its target organs, c) What activity it promotes in the target organ, and d) why this target-organ activity is important in pregnancy.

12) Many pregnant women report changes in their bodies as they get near their due date. After each change described below, explain what causes the change.

 a) Frequent urination

 b) Upset stomach or heartburn.

 c) Getting more limber (they can bend their arm and leg joints in extreme ways that would have

 been painful before pregnancy).

13) To induce labor, doctors sometimes give a woman an artificial version of a pituitary hormone. Name the labor-inducing hormone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The artificial hormone that is injected only causes a few contractions (not enough contractions to expel the baby). But those few contractions are enough to put the woman’s body into labor, where it generates its own contractions until the baby is born. Explain how inducing a few contractions can start a cycle of hundreds contractions that lead to the birth of the baby.

14) Items a – d below describe situations where something goes wrong in the reproductive process. After each item, answer Yes or No about whether fertilization would occur? Would implantation occur? Would the baby reach term (full development)? Would the birth be a normal birth? Under any “No” answers, explain what exactly would go wrong in the pregnancy.

 Fertilization? Implantation? Reach term? Normal birth?

a) The cilia in the fallopian

 tube don’t function. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) The myometrium does not

function. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c) hCG is not produced. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d) The inner cell mass is missing

from the blastocyst. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Problem 15) If a nursing mother’s pituitary gland were able to make the hormone prolactin but not the hormone oxytocin, would her baby be able to nurse effectively? Why or why not?

**Answers to short-answer review questions:**

5) The penis contains “spongy tissue”, which is tissue containing many unfilled open spaces between the cells. When a man becomes sexually aroused, blood enters the spongy tissue of the penis and fills the empty spaces between the cells. The blood pressure and blood volume in the spongy tissue increase the length and rigidity of the penis, resulting in an erection.

6) The normal changes that occur to a male during puberty include deepening of the voice and growth of facial hair. These (and many other) male characteristics are caused by testosterone, a hormone produced by the testes. If these male traits do not develop at puberty, the problem maybe a defect in the testes’ ability to make testosterone. The testes, however, require the pituitary hormone LH to make testosterone. If the testes are undamaged, yet the male does not display any of the normal male characteristics, the problem may be damage to the pituitary that results in insufficient LH production.

7) Follicles make primarily estrogen. The corpus luteum makes progesterone and a little estrogen. All of these hormones are in the steroid family of hormones.

8) The cilia propel the embryo through the fallopian tube to the uterus. If the cilia were not functioning an ectopic pregnancy would occur within the fallopian tube. The fimbriae draw the ova from the ovary into the fallopian tube. If the fimbriae were not functioning, the ova would not enter the fallopian tube but instead would implant somewhere within the abdominopelvic cavity (such as on the outside of the intestines).

9) Most hormone-based contraceptives contain large amounts of the hormones estrogen and progesterone. High levels of progesterone and estrogen occur naturally in the body during pregnancy. The high levels of these hormones from the contraceptive “fool the body into thinking it is pregnant.” To be more precise, the high levels of estrogen and progesterone halt ovulation (because it would be wasteful for the ovaries to release eggs during pregnancy). By preventing ovulation, the contraceptive prevents pregnancy.

10) The hormone hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin) is released by the embryo starting just a few days after fertilization has occurred. The target organ of the hormone is the corpus luteum in the ovary. The hCG sustains the corpus luteum (in other words, the hCG keeps the corpus luteum alive and functioning). This is very important for maintaining the pregnancy because the corpus luteum makes the progesterone that prevents menstruation during pregnancy. If the embryo did not make hCG, the corpus luteum would die about two weeks after ovulation. The decrease in progesterone would cause the woman to menstruate, which would end the pregnancy.

11) The hormone relaxin is made by the placenta near the end of pregnancy. Its target organs are the ligaments, especially the ligaments of the pelvis. Relaxin causes the ligaments to loosen. This loosening is important because it allows the mother’s pelvic bones to open apart more widely than usual, which facilitates the birthing process.

12) Frequent urination during the latter parts of pregnancy is caused by the fetus compressing the bladder. Also, the increased blood volume and metabolic activity of the mother leads to larger-than-usual volumes of urine being produced. Upset stomach/heartburn is caused by the fetus compressing the digestive system organs, especially the stomach in the case of heartburn (acid reflex). Getting more limber during pregnancy (an effect that does not happen to all pregnant women) is due to the placental hormone relaxin loosening the ligaments of the body in preparation for labor.

13) The hormone oxytocin causes labor contractions. (The synthetic version of the hormone given to induce labor is called pitocin). The first contractions of labor push the baby’s head against the cervix. This triggers a reflex that causes the mother’s pituitary gland to release oxytocin, which then causes more contractions, which presses the baby’s head against the cervix again, which causes more oxytocin to be released, etc. This cycle repeats itself until the baby is delivered. If the mother is having trouble stating contractions, an injection of the hormone is given. The injected hormone causes only a few contractions of the uterus, but those few lead to the cycle of contractions described above.

14) Fertilization? Implantation? Reach term? Normal birth?

a) The cilia in the fallopian

 tube don’t function. Yes No No\* N/A

b) The myometrium does not

function. Yes Yes Yes No\*\*

c) hCG is not produced. Yes Yes No\*\*\* N/A

d) The inner cell mass is missing

from the blastocyst. Yes Yes No\*\*\*\* N/A

\* The embryo would start to develop inside the fallopian tube. This is an ectopic pregnancy. Because this is a threat to the mother’s life, ectopic pregnancies are usually terminated.

\*\* The myometrium is the uterine muscle that expels the baby during labor. If it were not functioning, a caesarean section (surgical delivery) would be performed.

\*\*\* hCG is needed to prevent menstruation during pregnancy. If no hCG is made the developing embryo would be lost in the next menstruation.

\*\*\*\* The inner cell mass is the part of the embryo that develops into the baby. If it were missing, no baby would develop.

15) The baby would not be able to nurse as effectively as normal. The prolactin hormone causes the glands within the breast to make milk but the oxytocin hormone is needed for the glands to eject the milk to the nipple.