

Sexual Reproduction in Humans

Chapter 7: How do Organisms Reproduce? · Topic 2

Key Concept

The menstrual cycle, occurring roughly every 28 days in females, prepares the uterus lining for potential pregnancy each month; if fertilisation does not occur, the thickened lining is shed as menstruation.

Puberty triggers the maturation of reproductive organs and the onset of these reproductive capabilities in both males and females, driven by sex hormones — testosterone in males and oestrogen/progesterone in females — which also cause secondary sexual characteristics to develop.

Quick Revision Notes

- Fertilisation: fusion of sperm (from testes) and egg (from ovaries) forms a zygote.
- The uterus provides the environment for embryo/foetus development over about nine months.
- The menstrual cycle (~28 days) prepares the uterus lining monthly; unused lining sheds as menstruation.
- Puberty, driven by testosterone/oestrogen, triggers reproductive maturity and secondary sexual characteristics.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name the female reproductive organ where the embryo develops.
- 2 Explain what happens during the menstrual cycle if fertilisation does not occur.
- 3 What role do hormones play during puberty?