

# 5.3.6 The use of hormones to treat infertility

## AQA GCSE Biology (Higher) Question and answer notes

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### How to use these notes

These notes cover everything you need to know for this part of the specification. They have been written in question-answer format to make them easier for you to study from.

In order to study successfully, I recommend you do the following for each question and answer:

- Read it carefully and make sure you **understand** it.
- **Memorise** the answer.
- **Practice** applying your understanding to past exam questions.

A good way to memorise information is to use **retrieval practice**. This is when you practise retrieving information from your memory. You could do this by making a flashcard for each question with the question on one side and the answer on the other. Or you could use a flashcard app. Alternatively, use a sheet of paper to cover up the answer so you can only see the question. Try to answer the question and then check how you did.

You should practise retrieving each answer from your memory until you can do it perfectly. Even once you can retrieve the answer perfectly, your ability to retrieve it will probably fade as time passes without practising. Therefore you will need to keep going back to the questions that you have previously mastered and practising them again. However, each time you re-learn the answer, the memory will be stronger and will last longer than the time before.

### What is infertility treatment?

Infertility treatment is any treatment used to help someone become pregnant.

### What are the main forms of infertility treatment?

The main forms of infertility treatment are:

- Giving a woman a fertility drug containing FSH and LH to stimulate the maturation and release of egg cells, which increases her chances of becoming pregnant through sex.
- In vitro fertilisation (IVF).

**What is in vitro fertilisation (IVF)?**

IVF (in vitro fertilisation) is an infertility treatment that involves creating an embryo outside of the body (in a laboratory) and then inserting it into a woman's uterus. The steps are as follows:

- FSH and LH are given to the woman to stimulate egg cells to mature.
- Once egg cells are released, they are collected from the woman's body.
- Sperm cells are collected from a man.
- The egg cells and sperm cells are fused in a laboratory to create embryos.
- The embryos are allowed to develop until the stage when each one is a tiny ball of cells.
- One or more of the embryos are placed in the woman's uterus.

**What are some of the downsides of infertility treatment?**

The downsides of infertility treatment include the following:

- It is very emotionally and physically stressful
- The success rates are not high
- It can lead to multiple births (twins, triplets, etc), which is a risk to both the mother and the babies.