

The Lifecycle Journey: Growth and Development

Learning objective: To describe the changes as humans develop to old age, focusing on the stages of the human lifecycle.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of human biology to provide detailed, scientific explanations.

Word bank: infancy · childhood · adolescence · adulthood · puberty · gestation · independence · senescence

1. Nova the owl is curious about how humans change as they grow. Identify the four main stages of the human lifecycle and briefly describe the level of independence a human has at each stage. (4 marks)

2. Explain why the stage of 'adolescence' is considered a significant period of transition between childhood and adulthood. Mention at least two physical or emotional changes. (3 marks)

3. Max the monkey is looking at a growth chart. Compare and contrast the physical needs of a human during infancy versus those during late adulthood. Why do these needs differ? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Does the human brain stop developing once a person reaches the age of 18? Explain the importance of continued learning and cognitive development throughout adulthood. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the human body if the natural process of ageing were to stop completely at the age of 25? Consider the biological implications for bones, muscles, and organs. (4 marks)

6. Ellie the elephant has a brilliant memory. Use your knowledge of human development to explain why an elderly person might have different life experiences and wisdom compared to a child. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scientific diagram representing the human lifecycle. Include labels for each stage and use arrows to show the progression of time. Add a small speech bubble for Nova the owl asking a scientific question about one of the stages.



Extension challenge: Research and write a short biography of a person who made a significant contribution to society during their later years. Explain how their life experience contributed to their achievement. Why is it important to value individuals at every stage of the human lifecycle?