

Nova's Guide to the Human Life Cycle

Learning objective: To describe the changes as humans develop to old age, focusing on biological and physical growth.

Use this writing scaffold to draft an informative report about the stages of human development. Use the word bank to link your ideas and ensure your explanations are scientifically precise.

As Nova the owl observes from her high branch, the human life cycle is a fascinating process of constant transformation and growth.

Word bank: subsequently · furthermore · in contrast · significant development · consequently · puberty · gradual · physical maturity · biological changes · adolescence

1. Introduction: Define the human life cycle and explain why humans require a long period of development compared to other species. Start with: 'The journey from infancy to adulthood is a complex process...' (2 marks)

2. Early Development: Describe the primary changes that occur during infancy and childhood. Include how these stages prepare the body for later life. Start with: 'During the initial stages of life, the human body undergoes rapid physical and cognitive growth...' (3 marks)

3. Adolescence and Puberty: Explain the biological significance of puberty. Justify why these changes are essential for reproductive maturity. Start with: 'As a human enters adolescence, they experience significant hormonal changes...' (3 marks)

4. Adulthood and Beyond: Compare and contrast the physical capabilities of an adult with those of an elderly person. What might happen if the human body did not age? Start with: 'Upon reaching adulthood, the body reaches its peak physical strength...' (4 marks)

5. Scientific Reflection: Explain why humans are dependent on caregivers for such a long duration. How does this support their learning and development? Start with: 'One unique aspect of human development is the extended period of dependency...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the main stages of the human life cycle. Explain why the cycle is considered a continuous process. Start with: 'In conclusion, the human life cycle is a remarkable progression...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist documenting the evolution of human biology. Write a brief 'Expert Note' justifying why the human brain continues to develop well into a person's twenties, and discuss the implications this has for human behaviour and decision-making.