

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

**MCB 135E, Second Midterm**  
**November 10, 1995**  
**Answer Key**  
**Version A**

Three (3) points per question

1. Surfactant lining the pulmonary alveoli:
  - A. Helps prevent alveolar collapse
  - B. Is decreased in hyaline membrane (respiratory distress) disease
  - C. Is a mixture of proteins and lipids
  - D. Is necessary at birth to facilitate the first breath
  - E. All of the above**
  
2. In the newborn and infant, the frequency of feeding (meals) is required because:
  - A. The shorter intestine
  - B. The smaller stomach**
  - C. The lack of teeth
  - D. The maturity of the liver
  - E. All of the above
  
3. In the newborn and infant, thermoregulation is assisted by:
  - A. Shivering
  - B. Sweating
  - C. Voluntary muscle activity
  - D. Presence of brown fat depots**
  - E. Increased pulmonary ventilation
  
4. In the newborn and infant, dehydration is one of the major risk factors threatening survival because:
  - A. Intestinal wall irritability accelerates evacuation of feces which induces diarrhea
  - B. Loop of Henle in kidney is shorter than in adult
  - C. Amount of urea in renal medulla is less than in adult as proteins are utilized for growth
  - D. All of the above**
  - E. None of the above
  
5. The most important cardiovascular adjustments at birth include:
  - A. Increased blood pressure in the lungs
  - B. Changes in pressure & strength of cardiac muscle with increase in left heart and decrease in right heart**
  - C. Dilation of ductus arteriosus
  - D. Closure of portal vein
  - E. Decreased number of renal glomeruli
  
6. The probability that careful examination late in life will reveal one or more birth defects in an individual is:
  - A. Zero
  - B. One in Four
  - C. One in Seven**
  - D. One in Fourteen
  - E. One in Twenty



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Number of points in parenthesis

14. (6 points) The most common "Inborn Error of Metabolism" in humans is PKU  
It occurs approximately once per 15,000 live births and causes irreversible brain damage  
unless newborn is placed on phenylalanine low or phenylalanine-free diet
15. (10 points) Classify the following birth defects with respect to their likely origin (GENETIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, or MULTIFACTORIAL):
- A. Sickle Cell Anemia: Genetic
  - B. Congenital Hypothyroidism: Environmental
  - C. Huntington's Chorea: Genetic
  - D. Severe Combined Immuno-Deficiency: Genetic
  - E. Anencephaly: Multifactorial
16. (6 points) Teratogens are most likely to exert their detrimental effects between the 3rd and 8th weeks of human development, because during this critical period actively replicating cells are present as major organ system development begins
17. (12 points) Describe the roles of estrogen, progesterone, oxytocin and prostaglandins in parturition. Discuss how one hormone affects another.
- estrogen (2)1. inhibits local action of progesterone  
promotes uterine sensitivity to stimulatory prostaglandins and oxytocin  
(via increase in number of oxytocin receptors)  
promotes uterine contractility  
promotes cervical softening
- progesterone(2) reduces uterine contractility due to:  
suppression of stimulatory prostaglandins  
reduction of gap junction due to reduced connexin  
aggregation
- oxytocin(4) stimulates uterine contractions  
directly as manifested by increased amplitude of muscle contraction waves  
and indirectly by markedly increased production of stimulatory  
prostaglandins (which in turn stimulate muscle contractions)
- prostaglandins (4) are necessary for onset and progression of labor  
They: stimulate smooth muscle contraction  
They increase signal propagation that leads to increased contractility by  
stimulating aggregation of connexin, a gap junction protein that promotes  
formation of gap junctions (i.e. increased gates of channels between cells)

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18 (15 points) Draw and label a curve of human postnatal growth. Use growth rate in height from birth to end of adolescence.

19 (12 points) Draw and label a curve of postnatal growth rate in weight and compare growth in the following organs: thymus, brain, uterus, heart