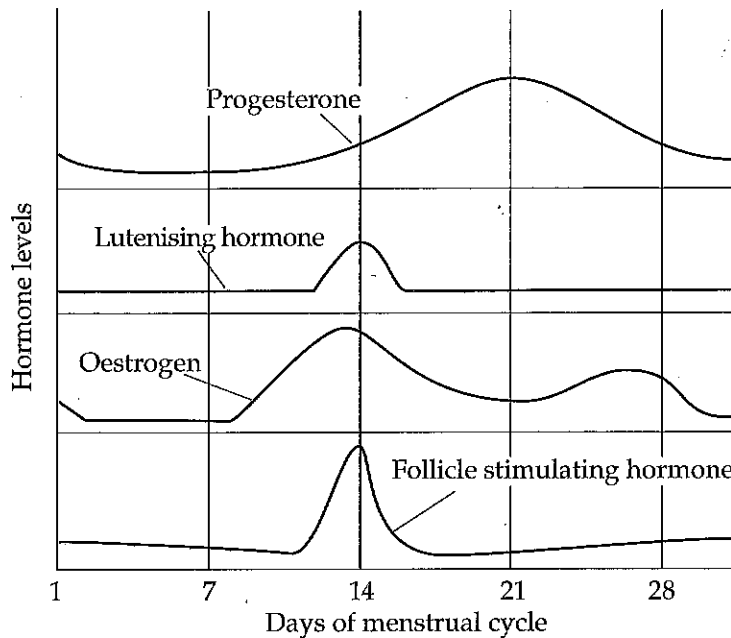


41 Hormones and the menstrual cycle

K_/2 L_/2

1 Changes in the body are controlled by hormones. During her reproductive years a woman's body changes regularly in preparation for a baby. We call this the **menstrual cycle**. For convenience we say the cycle begins on the first day of her period. **Ovulation** occurs on Day 14.

The graph below shows the levels of four important hormones during the cycle. Use it to identify hormones A-D in the passage below.

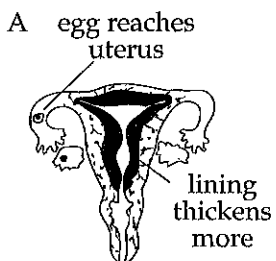


- Hormone A is released by the pituitary gland. It stimulates an egg to ripen in one of the follicles of the ovary.
- As the egg ripens the ovary produces hormone B, which causes the lining of the womb to thicken.
- A burst of hormones A and C signals the release of the egg into the fallopian tube. This step is called ovulation.
- After ovulation the ovary continues to produce hormone B, but also produces hormone D. Hormone D causes the womb lining to become enriched with blood ready to receive a fertilised egg.
- If the egg is not fertilised it dies, causing the follicle to cease production of hormones C and D. As these hormone levels rapidly drop the womb lining disintegrates and menstruation begins.

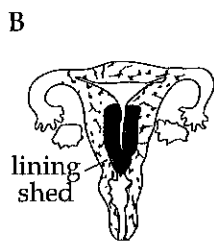
Hormone A is _____ Hormone C is _____

Hormone B is _____ Hormone D is _____

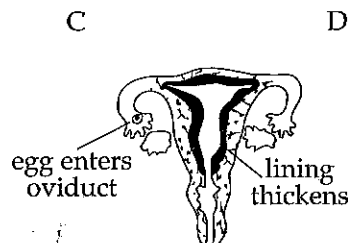
2 These pictures show different stages of the menstrual cycle. Put them in order.



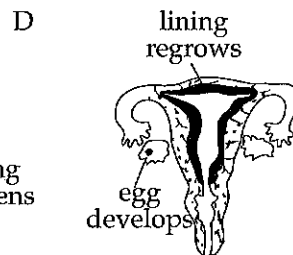
Stage _____



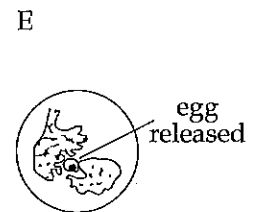
Stage _____



Stage _____



Stage _____



Stage _____