

B5 Key Word Glossary

central nervous system (CNS): the part of the nervous system where information is processed. It is made up of the brain and spinal cord

coordination centres: areas that receive and process information from receptors

effectors: areas (usually muscles or glands) that bring about responses in the body

homeostasis: the regulation of the internal conditions of a cell or organism to maintain optimum conditions for function, in response to internal and external changes

motor neurones: carry impulses from the central nervous system to the effector organs

nerve: bundle of hundreds or even thousands of neurones

neurones: basic cells of the nervous system that carry minute electrical impulses around the body

receptors: cells that detect stimuli – changes in the internal or external environment

reflex arcs: bring about a reflex action. They involve the sense organ, sensory neurone, relay neurone and motor neurone

reflexes: rapid automatic responses of the nervous system that do not involve conscious thought

sensory neurone: neurone that carries impulses from the sensory organs to the central nervous system

stimuli: changes in the external or internal environment that can be detected by receptors

suspensory ligaments: the ligaments that connect the lens of the eye to the ciliary muscles

Adrenaline: hormone that prepares the body for flight or fight

Contraception: methods of preventing pregnancy which usually involve preventing the sperm and egg from meeting

endocrine system: the glands that produce the hormones that control many aspects of the development and metabolism of the body, and the hormones they produce

follicle stimulating hormone (FSH): causes the eggs to mature in the ovary

gibberellins: plant hormones that are important in initiating seed germination

glucagon: hormone involved in the control of blood sugar levels

hormones: chemicals produced in one area of the body of an organism that have an effect on the functioning of another area of the body. In animals hormones are produced in glands

insulin: hormone involved in the control of blood sugar levels

oestrogen: female sex hormone that controls the development of secondary sexual characteristics in girls at puberty, and the build-up and maintenance of the uterus lining during the menstrual cycle

ovaries: female sex organs that produce eggs and sex hormones

ovulation: the release of a mature egg (ovum) from the ovary

pituitary gland: endocrine 'master gland' found in the brain that secretes a number of different hormones into the blood in response to different conditions to control other endocrine glands in the body

testosterone: the main male sex hormone that controls the male secondary sexual characteristics at puberty and the production of sperm

type 1 diabetes: a disorder where the pancreas fails to produce sufficient insulin

type 2 diabetes: a disorder where the body cells no longer respond to the insulin produced by the pancreas