**MATRIC NUMBER: 16/MHS06/009**

**COURSE TILE: HISTOPATHOLOGY TECHNIQUES AND MUSEUM**

**COURSE CODE: MLS 408**

QUESTION: In a tabular form only, compare and contrast sections of the gastrointestinal tract

ANSWER:

The GIT is basically divided into two the lower and upper GIT. The upper GIT consists of the mouth, esophagus, stomach and the first part of the small intestine the duodenum while the lower GIT runs from the small intestine to the large intestine and then the anus. The differences are:

The upper GIT digests your food and prepares it for processing and utilizing nutrients throughout the body. Problems with the upper GI tract can manifest symptoms like burping, problems swallowing, heartburn, acid reflux, upset stomach, or abdominal pain. As you chew your food, saliva begins to break down the food – starting the digestive process. Once food is swallowed, it travels down the esophagus and into the stomach for full digestion. The stomach stores the food and begins breaking down what someone has eaten while releasing pepsin and hydrochloric acids. These acids further break down the food and create a substance called chyme. Chyme then sits in the stomach before moving down into the small intestine, where the nutrients are absorbed. This triggers the liver, gallbladder, and pancreas to begin processing the nutrients. Bile production begins in the liver. The bile is then stored in the gallbladder, where it is gradually released into the small intestine while the pancreas further breaks down the proteins, fats, and carbohydrates for the body.

While for the lower GIT the contents of the small intestine empty into the large intestine, which is also called the colon. While food travels through the colon, the water and salts are absorbed. Once the nutrients are removed from the food, the remaining materials become stool – which moves into the rectum to be expelled from the body as waste.

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| UPPER GIT | LOWER GIT |
| Consists of mouth, esophagus, stomach | Consists of small intestine, large intestine, anus |
| It has to do with food breakdown and absorption | It has to do with waste compaction and removal |
| It has to do with absorption | It has to do with digestion |
| Mainly contains squamous epithelium | Mainly consists of stratified epithelium |
| It has do with storage of food | There is excretion of waste products |

Some of the similarities are:

* Some of the process can be controlled while some can’t be controlled
* Each organ has an epithelial lining
* The both aid in the general digestion of food
* They are required for the general function of the body