MATRIC NO: 16/MHS06/022.

1. DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE SECTIONS OF THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT:

* DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UPPER AND LOWER GIT:

The human gastrointestinal tract consists of the oral cavity, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine and rectum; and is divided into the upper and lower gastrointestinal tracts. The GI tract includes all structures between the mouth and the anus

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| NO. | UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT | LOWER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT |
| 1 | The upper GI tract is generally considered to be the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and finally the first part of the small intestine (duodenum). | The lower GI tract runs from the small intestine to the large intestine (colon) to the anus. The lower gastrointestinal tract, commonly referred to as the large intestine, begins at the cecum and also includes the appendix (humans only) colon, rectum, and anus. |
| 2 | The upper GI tract can be examined with an endoscopy, which is performed by a gastroenterologist while the patient is under anaesthesia. | The lower GI tract can be examined in several ways, including via a colonoscopy. As with an endoscopy, the patient is placed under anaesthesia for a colonoscopy. |
| 3 | The functions of the upper gastrointestinal tract include transport of the swallowed food bolus, enzymatic digestion, and absorption of nutrients, in addition to protective barrier function against the external environment. | The large intestine has 3 primary functions: absorbing water and electrolytes, producing and absorbing vitamins, and forming and propelling faeces toward the rectum for elimination. By the time indigestible materials have reached the colon, most nutrients and up to 90% of the water has been absorbed by the small intestine. |

* SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE UPPER AND LOWER GIT:

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| **NO** | COMPARISON BETWEEN THE UPPER AND LOWER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT |
| 1 | Digestion and absorption are the primary functions of the sections of the gastrointestinal tract. |
| 2 | The sections of the gastrointestinal tract are lined by a special layer of cells, called epithelium. |
| 3 | Although each section of the tract has specialised functions, the entire tract has a similar basic structure with regional variations. |
| 4 | The sections of the GI tract is composed of four layers. Each layer has different tissues and functions. From the inside out they are called: mucosa, submucosa, muscularis, and serosa. |
| 5 | They all function variously in the transport of swallowed food bolus, enzymatic digestion, absorption of nutrients and protective barrier function against the external environment. |