Reproduction/ development

In part (a) the question addressed human embryological development, but many students described fetal development and pregnancy. Students often incorrectly attributed the events of a particular stage of embryological development to a different stage. Meiosis and oogenesis were confused with mitosis that occurs during embryonic cleavage.

In part (b) students were challenged by the term “developmental origin.” Many students interpreted this as the evolutionary origins of the structure and not the embryological origins.

1. In part (d) students did not make the distinction between embryonic stem cells and other human stem cells. Students demonstrated misconceptions that stem cells can be cultured to cure anything, that they do not replicate, that they have more or less DNA than normal cells, that they can grow replacement limbs or become any organ in the body, or that they are cancer cells.