

4.2 Epithelium and connective tissue

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 24 marks

KEY WORDS extracellular matrix

Objective

Classify epithelia and connective tissues and predict function from the classification.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ The grid

Simple squamous = exchange; stratified squamous = abrasion; cuboidal = transport; columnar = absorption. Connective tissue = cells + matrix, from areolar to tendon, cartilage, bone, blood.

■ Worked example: one field, one answer

Tall cells, basal nuclei, thin basement membrane, loose matrix beneath: simple columnar on areolar – an absorption surface ✓.

2 Practice

2.1 Which epithelium lines the capillary? [3]

2.2 Name the matrix fibre of tendon and its arrangement. [3]

2.3 Is pseudostratified epithelium truly multi-layered? [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Predict the epithelium and justify for: alveolus, proximal tubule, oesophagus, small intestine.

For each, state layer + shape and the function it serves ✓.

[8]

3.2 A duodenal biopsy shows villous flattening (fictional malabsorption case).

Explain why absorption fails architecturally (surface loss). State which epithelium should be present. Explain why diarrhoea follows the same defect.

[7]

Solutions

2.1

- Simple squamous (minimal diffusion distance).

2.2

- Collagen, densely regular (parallel).

2.3

- No – one layer: all cells touch the basement membrane.

3.1

- Alveolus: simple squamous (exchange).
- Proximal tubule: simple cuboidal with brush border (reabsorption).
- Oesophagus: stratified squamous (abrasion).
- Small intestine: simple columnar (absorption).
- Layer/shape consistently tied to function.

3.2

- Flattened villi collapse the absorptive surface area: the machinery is the membrane.
- Simple columnar with a brush border.
- Unabsorbed luminal contents retain water → osmotic diarrhoea.