The female reproductive cycle (5 pts)

Scenario: You are a volunteer at the local Planned Parenthood clinic. You are talking to a teenage girl who asks you to explain what happens when you get your period and why you don’t ovulate when you’re taking birth control pills.

First explain the normal female reproductive cycle. Make a drawing for her to show
a. the changes in the ovaries and uterus during the menstrual cycle.
   b. the changes in FSH, LH, estrogen and progesterone levels
   c. Describe the hormonal changes that trigger ovulation and the start of menstruation.

Once she understands the normal female reproductive cycle, show her how taking birth control pills that contain both estrogens and progestin alters the cycle and prevents ovulation. Diagram the hormonal changes that occur. What feedback loops are involved?