

18 Variation and mutation — Part 1

— Answers

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Work through these after trying the questions yourself.

18.1 The differences between individuals of the same species.

18.2 Height (or body mass) — any continuous feature.

18.3 Both genes and the environment.

18.4 A random genetic change (a change in the DNA).

18.5 Ionising radiation (X-rays), or certain chemicals.

18.6 **Height** shows continuous variation — it is affected by **genes and the environment**, giving a smooth range. **Blood group** shows discontinuous variation — it is set by **genes only**, giving a few distinct groups (no in-between).