

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).