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Level 2 Biology, 2015

91157 Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change

9.30 a.m. Monday 16 November 2015
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of genetic variation and change.	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of genetic variation and change.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should attempt ALL the questions in this booklet.

If you need more space for any answer, use the page(s) provided at the back of this booklet and clearly number the question.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

TOTAL

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QUESTION ONE: BLACK ROBINS

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http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/black-robin

Introduced species such as cats and rats caused the Chatham Island black robin (*Petroica traversi*) population to plummet to five individuals in 1980. Due to intensive conservation efforts, the species now has over 250 individuals in the gene pool.

(a) Describe the term gene pool.

(b) Explain how genetic drift affects the black robin's gene pool.

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(c) Female black robins usually lay eggs inside their nests. However, conservationists found some birds laid eggs on the rims of nests, where the eggs could not survive. So, they pushed the eggs back into the nests where they could be incubated and hatch successfully. However, this selection pressure from humans caused the rim laying allele to increase to 50% in the black robin population. They decided to stop pushing eggs back into the nests to prevent the behaviour from spreading throughout the population. In 2011 only 9% of the population laid eggs on the rims of nests.

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Nest showing egg laid on rim.
www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/~r.sainudiin/preprints/plos_br_preprint.pdf

Discuss why some female black robins lay eggs on the rims of nests, while most lay eggs inside the nests, and how humans affected this behaviour.

In your answer include:

- a description of what allele and allele frequency mean
- an explanation of what selection pressures are, and how they affect natural selection
- a discussion of natural selection using the black robin egg laying example
- a discussion of why the rim laying behaviour increased with human intervention, then decreased once the intervention stopped.

There is more space for your answer to this question on the following page.

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QUESTION TWO: BLOOD TYPE

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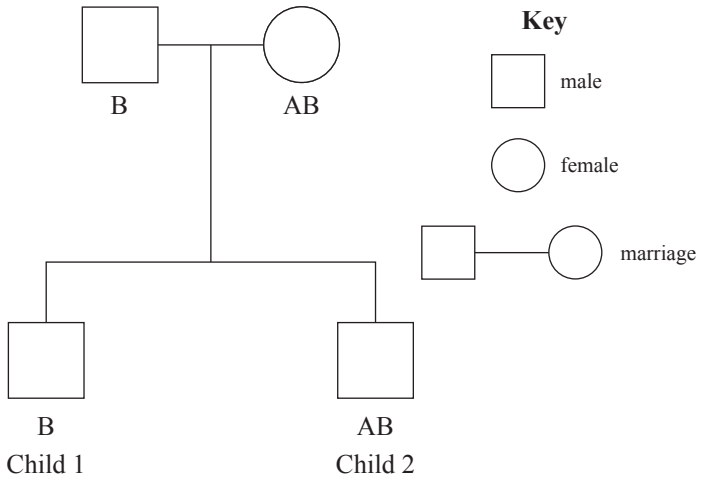
There are multiple alleles that determine a human's blood type. These are known as I^A, I^B and i^O. Alleles I^A and I^B are dominant over i^O. However, when I^A and I^B are inherited together, they show co-dominance.

(a) Describe what multiple alleles are.

(b) The pedigree chart below shows the two children and their phenotypes that result from a male with phenotype B and a female with phenotype AB.

Blood Types

Phenotype	Genotype
A	$I^A I^A$, $I^A i^O$
B	$I^B I^B$, $I^B i^O$
AB	$I^A I^B$
O	$i^O i^O$



Explain why Child 1 has two possible genotypes while Child 2 has only one possible genotype.

You may use diagrams in your answer.

There is more space for your answer to this question on the following page.

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(c) Child 2 (AB) in the pedigree chart on the previous page has children with a female having homozygous O blood type.

Discuss the inheritance of their offspring.

In your answer include:

- the possible phenotypes AND genotypes of the offspring
- an explanation of the difference between dominance and co-dominance
- a discussion of why none of their children will have the blood type O or AB.

You may use diagrams in your answer.

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QUESTION THREE: COAT COLOUR

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In 1905, Lucien Cuénot observed unusual ratios when studying inheritance of coat colour in mice. After mating two heterozygous yellow mice (Yy), he observed that the offspring never showed a normal 3:1 phenotypic ratio. Instead, he always observed a 2:1 ratio, with two yellow mice for every grey mouse. He concluded that yellow coat colour (Y) was dominant over grey coat colour (y), and by using test crosses he showed that all his yellow mice were heterozygotes. However, from his many crosses, Cuénot never produced a single homozygous dominant yellow mouse.

Subsequently, it was confirmed that no homozygous dominant yellow mice were present because of a lethal allele.

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www.themouseconnection.org/t955-what-are-these-sooty-colors

(a) Describe a lethal allele(s).

(b) Discuss how Cuénot used test crosses to determine that all the live yellow mice were heterozygous.

In your answer include:

- a description of homozygous AND heterozygous
- an explanation of what a test cross is
- a discussion of how Cuénot used the test crosses to observe a 2:1 ratio (two yellow mice for every grey mouse), and determine that all live yellow mice were heterozygous.

You may use diagrams in your answer.

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(c) The genetic disease cystic fibrosis is caused by lethal alleles. An affected individual is homozygous recessive, however heterozygous individuals are carriers of the lethal allele. Lethal alleles are caused by mutations. The mutation for cystic fibrosis occurs in the gametes.

Discuss how mutations cause lethal alleles, AND why cystic fibrosis alleles remain in the population.

In your answer include:

- a description of what a mutation is
- an explanation of the difference between a gametic mutation and a somatic mutation
- a discussion of why the cystic fibrosis lethal allele remains in the human population.

There is more space for your answer to this question on the following page.

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Extra paper if required.
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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