



## AP<sup>®</sup> Biology 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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**Directions:** Answer all questions.

Answers must be in essay form. Outline form is not acceptable. Labeled diagrams may be used to supplement discussion, but in no case will a diagram alone suffice. It is important that you read each question completely before you begin to write. Write all your answers on the pages following the questions in this booklet.

1. A difference between prokaryotes and eukaryotes is seen in the organization of their genetic material.

(a) **Discuss** the organization of the genetic material in prokaryotes and eukaryotes.

(b) **Contrast** the following activities in prokaryotes and eukaryotes:

- Replication of DNA
- Transcription or translation
- Gene regulation
- Cell division

1a.) Eukaryotes have an organelle, called the nucleus, where all the genetic material is situated. The genetic material, called DNA is made up of nucleotides that again consist of amino acids. These nucleotides have the structure of a double helix.

The prokaryotes do not have organelles, so they don't have a nucleus. The genetic material is in the cytoplasm of the cell and is not as well protected as in the eukaryotes.

b.) In eukaryotes DNA replication is subdivided into 2 steps. First the DNA, that exists of 2 strands is denatured and separated. Then, with the help of DNA polymerase and a primer, one strand is replicated. New amino acids are put on the old strand by complementary base pairing. There is the same DNA replication in prokaryotes. Cell division in eukaryotes is done by mitosis or by meiosis.

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In mitosis out of one diploid cell, by the processes of prophase, anaphase, metaphase and telophase a new cell develops which is genetically ~~the same~~ identical.

In meiosis out of 2 diploid cells ~~at~~ four haploid cells develop, which assort randomly to a new cell.

In eukaryotes transcription is done with the help of RNA, that takes a special piece of the DNA and replicates that to produce new proteins.

In prokaryotes only mitosis can take place. The process of mitosis is explained in the top 1 (briefly). There is only one cell that can divide.

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**BIOLOGY**  
**SECTION II**  
Time—1 hour and 30 minutes

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a) The form in which the genetic information of a prokaryotic cell <sup>is kept</sup> differs from a eukaryotic cell. In prokaryotes, the DNA isn't in a nucleus, while the eukaryotes has their nucleus to keep the DNA inside it.

b) In prokaryotes, it's easier to make DNA replication because of the lack of a nucleus, but to do DNA replication in a eukaryotic cell is harder. DNA of an eukaryotic cell is in chromatin form to fit into the small nucleus. For the replication to occur, first the DNA should open. Because of this reason, it's harder for eukaryotes to make DNA synthesis.

In ~~eukaryotes~~ prokaryotes, the gene regulation is determined with the position of a repressor. To make proteins, the RNA polymerase should attach to the promoter of the DNA. If there is an <sup>active</sup> repressor, this repressor prevents the RNA polymerase from binding to the promoter. In prokaryotes,

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substances like lactose involve in gene regulation, because they bind to the repressor and stop its function. When the repressor becomes inactive, RNA polymerase can bind to the promoter and make proteins. In eukaryotes, it's a little different. There are transcription factors, which bind to the enhancers of the DNA. If they bind to the enhancers, some other proteins bind both to the transcription factors and to the genes of interest. If this occurs, the RNA polymerase can start ~~the~~ making protein. So, in prokaryotes repressors are responsible for gene regulation, while in eukaryotes activators do the same job.

Prokaryotes divide by binary fission, in which two identical cells are formed. First, the components of the cell are duplicated and then the cell breaks into two parts. In eukaryotes, another technique is used, mitosis and meiosis. They also duplicate their <sup>cytoplasmic</sup> components during interphase, but they divide in a different way. Especially, Meiosis is very different from the dividing technique of prokaryotes. In meiosis, the newly formed cells ~~do~~ don't have to be identical to the parent cell, there is genetic variability.

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BIOLOGY  
SECTION II

1C1

Time—1 hour and 30 minutes

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a) In prokaryotes, the genetic material, DNA, is not ~~clearly~~ clearly packed in a nucleus. It is not in a membrane covered part. However, DNA is still clustered in the center forming nucleus-like area, without any membranes. In Eukaryotes, DNA is in the nucleus; in other words DNA is covered by a membrane. In Prokaryotes, DNA can be also found as plasmids, circular DNA, and the DNA is not supercoiled around proteins or itself. ~~In~~ In eukaryotes, there are no plasmids, DNA is wrapped around proteins histones, and supercoils to form chromatin fibers.

b) In prokaryotes and eukaryotes DNA replication is done by certain enzymes; RNA polymerase, DNA polymerase, DNA ligase. In eukaryotes DNA has to uncoil first and should be apart from histones for DNA replication to take place. In both types of cells, DNA is replicated according to semi-conservative model. In prokaryotes, transcription and translation both occur in cytoplasm. In

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transcription, a part of DNA, a gene starting with a promoter and finishing at a terminator, is transcribed. The result is an mRNA. No other editing is done to mRNA and whole mRNA is translated into amino-acid sequences, ending up as a polypeptide chain.

~~the~~ In eukaryotes transcription occurs as in prokaryotes, but in the nucleus. The mRNA is spliced afterwards. First a cap and tail is added to protect it from hydrolytic enzymes in the cytoplasm and to make it easier to recognise by ribosomes. Also mRNA is edited by taking off introns (meaningless parts of DNA transcribed into mRNA), and combining exons (meaningful parts). Therefore, mRNA in eukaryotes that leave the nucleus is shorter than the DNA piece. Translation occurs in cytoplasm as in prokaryotes.

In Prokaryotes, related genes are adjacent to each other forming operons. At the beginning of operons, there are operators that control gene expression. For example, if lactose isn't available to the organism a protein attaches to lac operon and inhibits the expression of lactase. In some other cases, a protein with the certain material on it attaches to the operon, inhibiting further synthesis of that material. In eukaryotes gene regulation occur in many steps: histones and supercoiling of DNA, RNA splicing, complex protein assemblies for transcription, activators or inhibitors for translation, protein breakdown.

In eukaryotes cell division can occur in two ways: meiosis or mitosis. In meiosis, four haploid daughter cells are produced, (these're gametes) and in mitosis two diploid, genetically identical daughter cells are produced (this is <sup>mainly</sup> for growth) ~~or~~ or can be for asexual reproduction.

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In prokaryotes <sup>there is</sup> one way of cell division: ~~the~~ binary fission. A prokaryote cell divides producing two genetically identical cells.

There is also one important difference of DNA replication in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. In eukaryotes, there's a proof reading that recognizes mistakes that occurred during replication. No such process is done in prokaryotes.

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