



## Regulation of Gene Expression

### IST-2.A.1

Regulatory sequences are stretches of DNA that interact with regulatory proteins to control transcription.

### IST-2.A.2

Epigenetic changes can affect gene expression through reversible modifications of DNA or histones.



## Regulation of Gene Expression

### IST-2.A.3

The phenotype of a cell or organism is determined by the combination of genes that are expressed and the levels at which they are expressed—

- a. Observable cell differentiation results from the expression of genes for tissue specific proteins.
- b. Induction of transcription factors during development results in sequential gene expression.



## Regulation of Gene Expression

### IST-2.B.1

Both prokaryotes and eukaryotes have groups of genes that are coordinately regulated—

- a. In prokaryotes, groups of genes called operons are transcribed in a single mRNA molecule. The lac operon is an example of an inducible system.
- b. In eukaryotes, groups of genes may be influenced by the same transcription factors to coordinately regulate expression.

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**Describe the effect of DNA  
methylation**



**Describe the effect of DNA methylation**

**DNA methylation involves binding methyl groups to the DNA. This causes the strand to condense which will inhibit transcription (so decreases gene expression)**

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**Describe the effect of histone acetylation**

**Describe the effect of histone acetylation**



**Firstly, histones are the proteins that DNA wraps around to condense.**

**The acetylation decreases the binding between DNA and histone which causes the DNA to loosen.**

**This increases transcription or stimulates gene expression.**





**What are the transcription factors?**

- A. Molecules that provide ATP to transcription unit**
- B. Molecules that synthesize RNA during transcription**
- C. Molecules that bring amino acids to the transcription unit**
- D. Molecules that bind to enhance/inhibit transcription.**



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**What are the  
transcription factors?**

**D. Molecules that bind to  
enhance/inhibit  
transcription.**



**Transcription factors bind to the  
enhancer regions to assist RNA  
polymerase to bind to the  
promoter to initiate transcription**

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**All somatic (body) cells have the same genetic information**

- A. True**
- B. False**

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**All somatic (body) cells  
have the same genetic  
information**

**A. True**



**All of your cells resulted from a  
single cell (zygote) that  
underwent mitosis so you could  
grow. All of your cells have the  
SAME DNA (except for your  
gametes due to meiosis)**

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**If all the cells have the same  
DNA how are your cells so  
different?**

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**If all the cells have the same DNA how are your cells so different?**



## **Cell differentiation**

**The cells have different transcription factors/activators which will enhance transcription of certain genes.**



**What types of cells have operons?**

- A. Eukaryotes**
- B. Prokaryotes**
- C. Neither eukaryotes nor prokaryotes**
- D. Both eukaryotes and prokaryotes**



**What types of cells have operons?**

**B. Prokaryotes**



**Operons are only found in prokaryotes. Operons are made up of a promoter, operator, and the genes that they control. It is a simple way for the prokaryotes to organize for gene expression.**



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**What are three components of an operon?**

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**What are three  
components of an operon?**

- > Promoter**
- > Operator**
- > Genes it regulates**



**What binds to the promoter?**

- A. DNA polymerase**
- B. Operator**
- C. Repressor**
- D. RNA polymerase**

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**What binds to the promoter?**

**D. RNA polymerase**



**The promoter is where the RNA polymerase to initiate transcription.**



**What makes up the TATA box?**

- A. Adenine & Cytosine**
- B. Cytosine & Guanine**
- C. Guanine & Thymine**
- D. Thymine & Adenine**

**What makes up the TATA box?**

**D. Thymine & Adenine**



**The TATA box is made up of T nucleotides (thymine) and A nucleotides (adenine). This is a site on the DNA where transcription factors will bind to aid in RNA polymerase binding.**



**Where is the TATA box located?**

- A. Near the introns**
- B. Near the exons**
- C. Near the poly adenylation sequence**
- D. Near the promoter**



**Where is the TATA box located?**

**D. Near the promoter**



**The TATA box is near the promoter. The TATA box indicates the DNA strand to be read. Transcription factors bind to this region to assist the RNA polymerase to bind to the promoter.**



**Describe the effect of adding methyl group to DNA.**

- A. Decreases condensation which decreases transcription**
- B. Decreases condensation which increases transcription**
- C. Increases condensation which decreases transcription**
- D. Increases condensation which increases transcription**

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**Describe the effect of adding methyl group to DNA.**

**C. Increases condensation which decreases transcription**



**Adding methyl groups to the DNA will cause the DNA to condense which decreases transcription as the RNA polymerase is unable to access the DNA to transcribe.**

**Recall: XX individuals will undergo methylation to their extra X chromosome to form Barr Bodies.**



**Describe effect of acetylating  
the histone tails**

- A. Decreases condensation which  
decreases transcription**
- B. Decreases condensation which  
increases transcription**
- C. Increases condensation which  
decreases transcription**
- D. Increases condensation which  
increases transcription**

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**Describe effect of  
acetylating the histone  
tails**

**B. Decreases condensation  
which increases  
transcription**



**When you acetylate the histone tails, it will cause the histone to be more negatively charged. The DNA and the histone will repel causing the DNA to decrease condensation and increase transcription as the RNA polymerase is able to access the DNA for transcription.**



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**All somatic cells within one organism have the same DNA.**

- A. True**
- B. False**

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**All somatic cells within one organism have the same DNA.**

**A. True**



**All cells originated from the zygote. The cells undergo mitosis forming identical cells that make up your body (somatic cells). The only cells in your body that are different are gametes due to the process of meiosis.**



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**What is the function of transcription factors?**

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**What is the function of transcription factors?**



**Binds to initiate transcription or inhibit transcription**

**Will turn on and off the genes of interest**



**Where does the repressor in an operon bind?**

- A. Operator**
- B. Promoter**
- C. Regulatory sequence**
- D. TATA box**

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**Where does the repressor  
in an operon bind?**

**A. Operator**



**The operator is located in the promoter region. This is the site of binding for the repressor.**

**If the repressor is bound to the operator, the operon will be OFF.  
If the repressor is NOT bound to the operator, the operon will be ON.**



**If the repressor is bound to the operator...**

- A. RNA polymerase is able to bind, the operon is off**
- B. RNA polymerase is able to bind, the operon is on**
- C. RNA polymerase is unable to bind, the operon is off**
- D. RNA polymerase is unable to bind, the operon is on**

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**If the repressor is bound to the operator...**

**C. RNA polymerase is unable to bind, the operon is off**



**Due to the repressor binding to the operator located in the promoter region, the repressor will block the binding of the RNA polymerase. If RNA polymerase is unable to bind, transcription will be inhibited.**





**The lac operon is...**

- A. Inducible operon so starts off and is activated by lactose**
- B. Inducible operon so starts on and is deactivated by lactose**
- C. Repressible operon so starts off and is activated by lactose**
- D. Repressible operon so starts on and is deactivated by lactose**



**The lac operon is...**

**A. Inducible operon so starts off and is activated by lactose**



**The lac operon synthesizes the enzymes to break down lactose. This operon will start as OFF and be stimulated by the presence of lactose. The lactose acts as an inducer to deactivate the repressor and turn the operon ON. This is an inducible operon.**

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**The trp operon is a(n)...**

- A. Inducible operon – activated by trp**
- B. Inducible operon – deactivated by trp**
- C. Repressible operon – activated by trp**
- D. Repressible operon – deactivated by trp**

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The trp operon is a(n)...

**D. Repressible operon –  
deactivated by trp**



**The trp operon synthesizes the enzymes needed to synthesize tryptophan. This operon will start ON. When trp is present, it will bind to the repressor activating it so it binds to the operator to inhibit transcription and turn the operon OFF. This operon is repressible by the presence of trp.**

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## Note:

**Histones are proteins that the DNA wraps around to organize it. I think of it like spaghetti (DNA) wrapped around a fork (histone) will allow you to access specific segments of the noodles versus the plate of unorganized pasta.**

**The histone is positively charged so attracted to DNA which is negatively charged (the phosphate groups each have 2 minus charge)**

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