

## **Text : Heredity**

Heredity refers characteristics passed from generation to another. Both physical and mental traits are inherited from one's parent.

Physical traits are such things as body build: short, thin or fat; the colour of one's skin hair and eyes; and the size and the shape of one's eyes, ears, hands and feet. Blood type is also inherited.

Among the mental traits inherited are one's capacity to learn, as well as aptitudes or special talents. Some of the fields in which aptitude or special talents appear are art, music, mechanics or mathematics.

The way in which certain traits are inherited remains a mystery and knowledge is limited. Sciences knows, however that every living cell has nucleus. Within the cell nucleus is material letters stands for desoxyribonucleic acid. During cell division chromatin forms chromosomes of which there are 46 in human body cells.

The chromosomes carry tiny particles called genes. Genes are the real determiners of heredity. Although scientists have never seen genes, they believe that there are hundreds of genes in each chromosome.

Alone, each controls one factor of one's inheritance. Genes also work together in pairs and group to control other factor of heredity. Scientists know for example that genes also control a person's tendency toward mental illness or diseases.

There are still many questions concerning heredity that scientists cannot answer.

However, they continue to experiment and search for answers.

### **I. Questions**

1. What determines the characteristics passed on from ancestor to descendant?
2. What is the function of genes ? Give three (3) examples of inherited traits.
3. What is chromatin made of ? Where is it found?
4. How many chromosomes are normally found in human cell?
5. What transport genes?
6. According to you, can twins have the same genes?

### **II. Translation**

Turn into French from: "the chromosomes carry.....to.....other factor of heredity"

### **III. Grammar**

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate proposition: from-in-of-into-to.

1. Genes are found .....human body cells.
2. Some traits can be inherited .....from one's parents.
3. A cell can be divided.....chromatin.....from chromosomes.
4. Genes control some factor.....heredity.