

# Genetics

## Week 2: Pre Module Discussion

### Part 1: Discussion

1. The following inherited diseases are mentioned in the listening; have you heard of any of these conditions? Do you know the names of any other inherited disorders?

- Cystic fibrosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Down Syndrome
- Friedrich ataxia

2. Match the word with the definition.

gene	1. a structure in the cell nucleus that is shaped like a rod and carries the genes
chromosome	2. the basic unit of heredity, capable of transmitting characteristics from one generation to the next
DNA	3. a molecule in the shape of a twisted double strand that is the most important component of the chromosome and carries genetic information

3. Discuss these questions with your group.

- What characteristics did you inherit from your father? Your mother? How similar are you to your brothers and/or sisters?
- Do you think nature or the environment and the way we are brought up is more important in determining who we are?
- Is intelligence inherited? Why do you think so?
- The reading mentions possible genetic connections to disorders like alcoholism, obesity, schizophrenia and manic-depression. What do you think?
- What is the difference between identical and fraternal twins? Do you know any twins? If so, how are they similar?

## Part 2: Vocabulary

1. The following words come from the listening and reading texts. Match the word with the meaning.

Word	Meaning
combat	complete change
mechanism	thrown away, disposed of
transformation	fight against, resist or control something harmful
compromise	enthusiastically praised or recommended
therapeutic	unable to reproduce or have children
indefinitely	something slightly different, another form
discarded	idiosyncrasy or small weakness
immunological	method or means of doing something
mutated	about, involved in, or used in the treatment of disease
infertile	dramatic or showy announcement or publicity stunt
foible	a settlement of a dispute where each side agrees to accept less than they actually wanted in order to reach agreement
touted	for a length of time that has no definite end
elusive	changed, developed different (often negative) characteristics
fanfare	generally accepted or believed to be something
variant	relating to the immune system
putative	hard to find or achieve

2. The words on the left come from the listening and reading texts. Match these words with their synonym on the right.

Word	Synonym
inherited	characteristic
defect	abolish
distraught	corpse
activate	distressed
potential	disorder
revolutionize	inborn
eliminate	connection
malady	transform
correlation	possible
trait	stimulate
cadaver	fault