

**Section A: Variation & Inheritance**

1. Because offspring inherit a mix of characteristics from both parents, not an exact copy of either one
2. Accept any two reasonable examples, e.g. height, hair colour, or personality traits
3. Because even littermates inherit a different mix of characteristics from their parents
4. An inherited trait comes from genes (e.g. eye colour); an environmental influence comes from surroundings or lifestyle (e.g. a suntan)
5. Because more variation means a species is more likely to have some individuals who can survive changes in their environment

Section B: Adaptation & Evolution

1. White fur helps a polar bear blend into snowy surroundings, making it harder for prey to spot it
2. Because individuals better suited to the new conditions are more likely to survive and pass on their genes over many generations
3. It means individuals best suited to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing their characteristics to offspring
4. e.g. a long beak helping a bird reach food in narrow spaces
5. Fossils show physical differences between ancient and modern species, providing evidence of gradual change over time